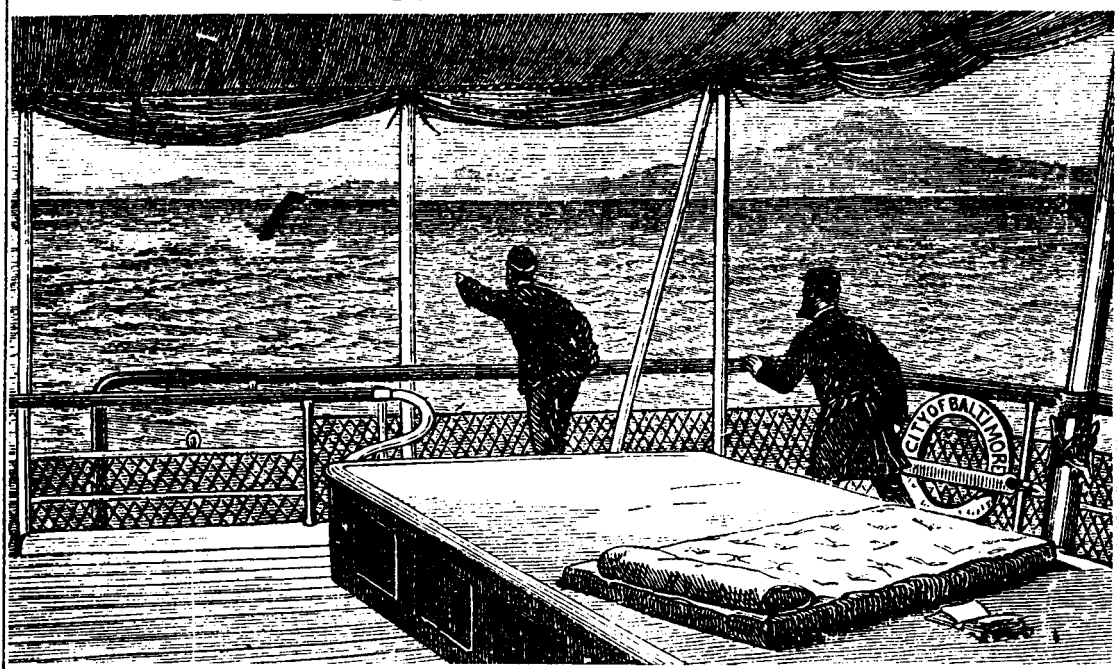
a miscellany of Fortean curiosites

THE NEWS

OH NO! NOT ANOTHER ONE!



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bimonthly news & notes
on Fortean phenomena

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APRIL 1976

*** A CHANGE OF NAME ***

In the past I have been rather obstinate in ignoring criticism of our name THE NEWS, and stuck by the various justifications given in our first two issues. I now bow to the opinion that if we are to appeal to more people, our title will have to be a little more descriptive of our contents. From the next issue we will be known as FORTEAN TIMES, with a subtitle of "Portents and Prodigies". To use the event to advantage, we have commissioned a 3-colour silk-screened poster from Hunt Emerson, to be displayed in shops, and even to be sold to readers. More on this next issue.

DONATIONS, PLANS & SUGGESTIONS.

Life has been exceedingly hectic since the last (which, as a few spotted, was wrongly dated January, instead of February). Our plea for donations towards a working capital fund had a small but encouraging response, in that those who were kind enough to express their support in this most practical way, did so with generosity beyond expectation. For their gifts, I'd like to express my thanks, on behalf of all NEWSreaders, to: Alice Ashton; Janet & Colin Bord: Nick Cohn; Robert Forrest; Judith Gee; John Harvey; RTA Hill; Mrs V Martin; Steev Moore; SN Morgan; Roger Sandell; Leslie Shepard; A Smith; & Nigel Watson.

Although this helps us immediately, we need to sustain it so that our aim of a position of security can consolidate itself. We are not out of danger - yet! And with further aid from more readers, we can avoid it entirely. So please help us with donations if you can. It's against our principles to twist anyone's arm. It's my sincere view that there is no limit to how good we can become in quality, value, coverage and reader-services. If you think we're doing good work, please help us get over this rough patch, to survive and do even better work.

Some of the money we have received has been spent on adverts in a wide variety of magazines - but to date this has resulted in only one inquiry. This poor return has given the edge to the thought that we should concentrate more on improving our quality. But these things take, and must be allowed, a reasonable time. We are still convinced, though, that there must be several thousand potential readers 'out there' -- and would dearly like to be better known and more widely read in America. In the meantime, personal recommendation to friends is a proven method of growth, and I'd like to renew my plea that as many of you who can, introduce a friend. If you want some blurbs, please write.

APOLOGY.

David James, MP., has asked us to point out that last issue's cover was based on a painting bt Sir Peter Scott, now owned by Mr James, and on view at Torosay Castle, Craignure, Mull.

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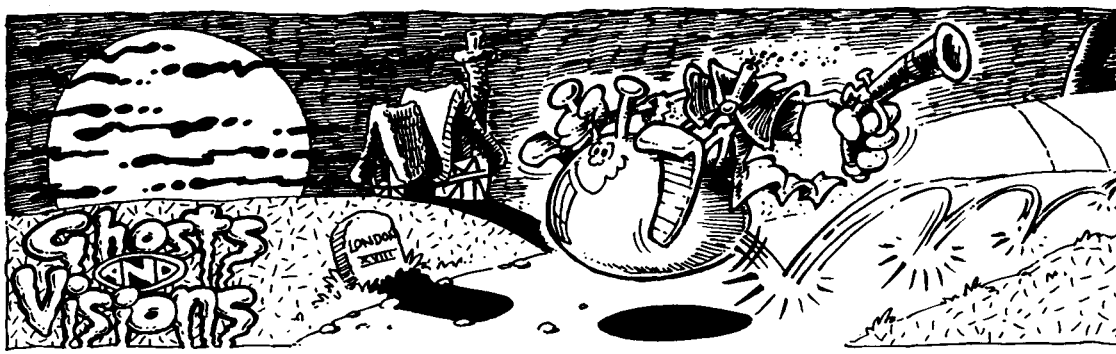


THE BLOB WITH RED EYES.

This story was told by Mrs Marie Browne of Huntington Beach, California, about the last and most horrible in a series of incidents that drove her and her family from their house in Chatsworth, California in 1971. It was reported in the National Enquirer sometime towards the end of 1973. (Cr: Cheryl Hardin.)

"I woke up in the darkness of my bedroom gasping for air. As my eyes adjusted to the dark, I saw a dim form above me that turned my blood to ice. I'll never forget the terror that swept through me when I realised that a huge shapeless black blob was squatting on my chest. Its massive quivering arms embracing me like a vise. From out of that horrible blackness, two blood-red eyes glared at me with such hatred that I was speechless with terror. The thing was making terrible hissing noises like laboured breathing. With the tiny bit of air left in my tortured lungs, I screamed.. The thing slid from my bed as Art (my husband) awoke. He isn't a man who scares easily - but when he saw the monster undulating between our beds, he cried out in fright.

He lunged for the bedside lamp, knocking it over in his panic. The evil-looking thing sat glaring at me, changing shape as it pulsated, while Art groped for the lamp. When he finally flicked it on, and light flooded the room, the blob recoiled and slithered across the room to our clothes closet. In an instant it had vanished - going right through the clothes and back-wall of the closet. We stared after it in astonishment, gasping for breath, trying to slow our pounding hearts. Neither of us could speak at first; finally Art said: "My God! In the name of God, what was that?" We compared what we had seen and made the chilling discovery; they were the same. The thing had been real!"

Blimey! Pardon me while I go look for my old nightlight.

FOREBODINGS IN TRANQUILITY.

Tranquility, Ohio, is a small, sincerely religious community with a population of 48. In mid-January 1974, one of them, Mrs Edna Combess, 30, mother of three, had a vision: "I wasn't asleep. I had just finished praying like I do every night when this vision came. And then I saw this beautiful person and I believe with all my heart it was Jesus. He had the prettiest white robe on, like real soft mohair I guess you'd call it, and all around it and Him was the prettiest blue you ever saw, just like the brightest blue in the sky. He was telling his children, and some others I didn't know, it was time to get ready and come home. He welcomed them and held their hands. It only lasted a few seconds and disappeared as I lay there and had this wonderful feeling of seeing Him. Some people laugh when I tell them, but most of us here consider it a sign, and believe the time is near."

Another lady, Mrs Gertrude Hughes, who lives at Seaman nearby, but attends the same (and only) church in Tranquility as Mrs Combess, also claims a dream-vision. "I was standing on a little piece of ground and the clear water was coming up all around me, but God told me not to be afraid, but to help other people live good lives and not perish when the end comes. I think it was a warning that the end is near." Rev. Cox, of the Tranquility Church, to whom both women related their dreams, also believe they were a warning but not so imminent. He said he had a dream in mid-December 73 in which he saw the fields in the coming Spring flooded with water.

It seems to me that things have got a bit mixed in their minds. If they were that virtuous why should the Lord smite them - but I could be being impertinant there. Also, about the turn of the year, the account says a tornado touched down in the area, missing Tranquility completely. I'd say that if anybody, it was they who had little to worry about, having friends in high places. Cleveland Press, 21 Jan 74. Cr: Mark Hall.

THE VIRGIN OF 56th AVENUE. We are told that every Sunday, just after lunch, the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) appears suspend-

ed above 56th Avenue in the New York suburb of Bayside Hills, Queens. According to the Sunday Times, 6 April 75 (Cr: Nigel Watson) the local residents, despite being 60% Catholic, have had it up to here, the crowds, coaches and chanting making their lives a misery and even at times, prisoners in their own homes. The crunch came when 20 buses brought over 1000 people from all over the USA that Easter. Mrs Vernoica Luekens conducts her services opposite a church there, on the spot where she first had her vision. Mrs Luekens is the only one to see the BVM regularly and the leaders of the Catholic community and Church strongly disapprove of her actions. Residents are pressing the police Commissioner to get her to have her visions elsewhere -- so much for the land of religious freedom!

We dug around and found a note sent some time ago by Mark Hall, from the Atlanta Constitution, 5 Sept 1974, which even then described the "carnival atmosphere" of these Sunday soirees, with Mrs Luekens passing on messages from the Virgin and the saints that accompanied her. The Brooklyn diocese investigated and announced the visions spurious and forbade their members from attending the vigils, saying they were simply the product of a "fertile imagination". There were said to be photos (which we haven't seen) and experts have been found to pronounce them the products of double-exposures "or more sophisticated tampering, suggesting the involvement of experts seeking to exploit the affair for monetary gain." Hard words indeed! Mrs Luekens was warned by her bishop to desist, but it seems she has persisted in her claims for the visions since about 1970. The Daily Express, 4 June 75 (Cr: Steev Moore) is the last we have on the matter; and the hostility between pilgrims and residents has escalated into open exchanges of blows, abuse and writs.

Personally, I doubt that dishonest motives alone could sustain this kind of fervour for so long -- I could accept there being, at the very least, some initial vision, that would give Mrs Luekens conviction and impetus. As for the rest, who can say? I'd welcome any light our American readers can shed on the matter. It is worth noting however the last and cynical word we have, that "Mrs Luekens has had a vision which told her to move her vigils from the streets into the parks." That kind of convenient solution only heightens the ambiguity. If it's a con-game, it is remarkable: it's being worked out in the open, before and involving thousands, and is preposterously blatant. Intriguing.

LOVE ALL.

Margaret Court, 3 times singles champion at Wimbledon, has abandoned her tennis for higher things. An interview in the Daily Express, 16 March 76 (Cr: Steev Moore) said that it began about 5 months ago when she embarked on a personal spiritual quest. At the end of a week in which she attended some Pentecostal lectures in Perth, Australia, she began to have visions. "I was up in the children's room and I looked above the door and saw Our Lady. I said to myself: 'Margaret, you're seeing things,' but it was there. I knelt down to pray. Something made me put my hands to my face and I saw a gate. The Lord told me to go through that gate. Later, in my hands, I saw a vision as if I was looking through a big window and I saw a cross on top of a hill with a big crowd of people. It was as if light was coming through my fingers. What does it feel like? How can I be so different, suddenly? The Lord says look at the sky and you look at me. Look at the earth and you look at me. Look at the flowers and the trees and you look at me. I've never seen them before. When He touches you, everything changes." Amen!

Before we leave BVMs, I'd like to appeal for help in identifying one we have only the briefest note of. An image of the BVM appeared regularly each evening (about 7.45pm) on a wall in Latimer St, Denver, Colorado, lasting till sunrise. It appeared first on Mother's Day 1973. Anyone have any more info on this?

A CELTIC WEREWOLF?

On BBC's evening current affairs programme, 'Nationwide' 20 Feb 76, an astonishing story was told about a werewolf figure associated with two Celtic stone heads, found near Hadrian's Wall along the Scottish-English border country. Fortunately for us, Steev Moore kindly transcribed the interesting bits for us. (We've taken the liberty of editing out some of the reporter's journalistic waffle, and summarise it thus):

To the Celts, the head was as powerful a symbol as the cross is to Christianity. "It represented all the great, deep, dark and dreadful things of man's nature. It was an avenging, insatiable god-figure, in which good and evil were mixed up. All destiny was there. This ghastly deity wasn't just a head; it was a severed head. The Romans were no great believers in having a dog and barking yourself, so they employed Celtic mercenaries to man the fortifications and discourage the Scottish drift south. These Celts brought their religions with them. They varied from tribe to tribe, but had in common, the head. Prisoners taken in battle were disembowelled in front of the many shrines; and the severed heads of the bravest and wisest were kept as a gruesome talisman. The gods themselves were heads of stone, and if there's any truth in the old stone-tape theory, what more likely receptacle could there be to store up the awesome memory of those savage times? Those cold impassive eyes must have soaked up death like blotting paper."

At this point, the reporter, Luke Casey, speculates about the possibility that people

with psychic sensitivity can somehow activate the stone-tapes and revive those frozen fears and agonies. This is conjecture, of course, because there is no apparent reason why his theory should be connected with the specific manifestion of a werewolf-type demon. So, while we let Casey take up the story, we suggest it would make more sense (or rather less nonsense) if you forgot the sensational stuff about beheadings and disembowellings, and simply focused on the fact that the houses into which these heads were taken became the scene of a weird manifestation.

Casey: "The action replay? Well just recently something very strange happened in this most unmagical-looking council house, at Hexham, Northumberland. Two stone heads were dug up in the garden, in what may very well have been an ancient Celtic shrine. Understandably they caused a bit of curiosity, and Mrs Jenny Robson showed them to people around the estate including the lady next door."

Mrs Robson: "Well, it was a few nights later, there was such an awful crash next door - the screams..it was terrible..we were all awake. Next morning I asked her what had happened, and she said..this horrible thing had come into her bedroom. One of the children was ill with toothache and she's been in the bedroom with her, and this thing came in the bedroom. It was half-man, half beast. Of course we laughed, but..it sounded so horrible y'know..something like a werewolf..and her husband came running in to see what it was, but this thing had gone padding down the stairs, and she could hear it, y'know..padding down the stairs..as if..on its hind legs..and when he went downstairs the frontdoor was open ..so evidently it had gone out of the front door."

Casey: "A werewolf? Padding around a Geordie council estate? It sounds ridiculous. So, who, or what, was it? Mrs Robson hasn't a clue, and it must be said that neither she nor her neighbour knew anything about Celtic mythology, or the horrible things associated with those ritual heads. They were sent off to be examined, and eventually arrived in the home of Dr Anne Ross, in Southampton. Dr Ross is one of the country's leading experts in Celtic studies - she's written three definitive books on the Celts and their culture. So it's reasonable to assume she's a level-headed lady, not given to wild flights of fancy. And yet she too claims to have had strange experiences after coming into contact with the heads."

Anne Ross: "I didn't connect it with the heads then, but two or three days afterwards ((receiving the heads)) I woke up in the middle of the night. We always keep the hall light on and the doors open, because our small son is a bit frightened of the dark - so there's always a certain amount of light coming into our room - and I woke up, and felt extremely frightened ..in fact, panic-stricken, and terribly, terribly cold. There was a sort of dreadful atmosphere of icy coldness all round me..and something made me look towards the door, and as I looked, I saw this..thing..going out of it. It was about 6ft high, slightly stooping, and it was black, against the white door..and it was half-animal and half-man..the upper part, I would have said, was a wolf, and the lower part was human, and, I would have again said, that it was covered with a kind of black, very dark fur. It went out and I just saw it clearly, and then it disappeared, and something made me run after it..a thing I wouldn't normally have done, but I felt compelled to run after it. I got out of bed, and I ran, and I could hear it going down the stairs, then it disappeared toward the back of the house. When I got to the bottom of the stairs I was terrified."

Casey: "Did you see this thing again?"

Anne Ross: "A few days after I saw it, we had to go up to London, and our teenage daughter had the key and came home from school about 4pm, and we got back from London about 6pm. When we opened the door, she came to it and looked extremely pale and terribly shaken. Finally I got it out of her what had happened. She had opened the front door ((when she came home from school)) and as she opened it, a black thing, which she described as being as near a werewolf as anything, jumped over the bannister and landed with a kind of plop, you know, like padded, heavy animal feet, and it rushed toward the back of the house, and she felt compelled to follow it. It disappeared in the music room, right at the end of the corridor, and when she got there it had gone, and suddenly she realised she was terrified. The day the heads were removed from the house everybody, including my husband, said it's as if a cloud had lifted; and since then there hasn't been, really, a trace of it."

Casey: "With something less than enthusiasm, we tried to trace the two heads that were being blamed for all the aggro. We didn't find them. It seems the various people who had them were only too happy to see the back of them, and they wern't terribly worried about where they went."

The Goro/Forli Beast... **(cont from p10.)**

We found another cutting, from the Sunday Express 26 July 1970, in which Samorini describes the "multi-legged" beast as a "huge scaly thing at least 15ft long. It walked on thick legs and its breath was searing hot. I ran for my life and it followed me for a couple of hundred yards." Police were reported as being sceptical until they were shown footprints in a glade in woods near Forli. Police Chief Dr Pedoni said: "We are convinced some sort of creature of colossal size is hiding in the woods. Three other people have seen it."(NB: some confusion on dates.)

THE MALTON MUTANT.

When your editor returned from his visit to the United States in August last year, he found a letter from Paul Screeton, editor of The Ley Hunter, enclosing the following item from the Darlington & Stockton Times, 9 Aug 1975, by a country columnist:

"REMARKABLE FOAL -- I have records of foals born without tails, with five legs and without eyes but never of one like that born recently at Miss Jacqueline Maw's Battenburg Pony Stud at Malton (Yorks.) Miss Maw told me this week that she had bought a Shetland mare in foal at Aberdeen to obtain an outcross for her own stallions. Five vets have seen the foal and say they have never seen its like. The mare showed no signs of foaling and was not due for three weeks. When discovered, the dam was guarding him in a hedge-bottom as the other mares and a stallion were most agressive. Miss Maw says: 'The colt foal was about ten inches high, his legs about the thickness of a pencil and he was crawling about on his knees. He had no ears and getting him and his dam to safety from attack was a nightmare. I half carried the tiny foal and led his dam to a loose box. The stallion attacked the foal, knocking it to the ground, and biting the dam. It was remarkable to see how the mare propped up the foal until it could walk. He had several other oddities, among them his two voices. One is like that of a guineapig, and the other is like the bleat of a sheep. He has odd shaped hooves, a sheep-shaped head, tiny nostrils and mouth. He is now growing little stubs for ears, much further back than usual. He crosses his legs as he walks, and walks almost on his hocks behind. He was born with a very curly black and silver tail (carried to one side), and a mass of curly black mane."

Well, this was most interesting; since we are always on the lookout for mutations of any kind, we wrote to Miss Maw for further details. She very kindly wrote back several times in response to our inquiries, and even

** The photos on this & the facing page are the copyright of Miss Jaqueline Maw. **

sent along photos of the little wonder, which we have her permission to reproduce here. I've taken the liberty of editing Miss Maw's letters (written during Dec 75) into one statement.

"I purchased his mum, Glide of Marshwood, at the 1974 Aberdeen Shetland pony sales in October. She came from Orkney already in foal by several months. Therefore I did not actually breed the Shony. ((Shony is Miss Maw's name for the foal - explained below.)) The last owner of Glide had put her out on the scaterlands (areas of common land) with the stallion, Scapa Surf. In the Shetland Islands, each crofter is allowed to turn out a certain number of animals on the scaterlands. No one actually supervises the ponies or arranges the times to put mares in foal, the idea being to leave it completely in the hands of mother Nature.

"When the Shony was born, I informed the breeder in Orkney, and I was assured he was a pure-bred Shetland. The breeder had signed the form for the Shony to be registered - presumably the only registered pedigree Shetland mutation in the world!

"The foal was born on Thursday, 8 May 1975 - Ascension Day. As mentioned in the article ((above)) the mare showed no signs at all of being about to foal. This is very unusual, as mares always as a rule show ample signs from about 24 hours before the birth. The other ponies being so agressive to Glide and her foal was also much against the rule of nature; the usual action being for all other mares to form a protective semi-circle around the newborn foal. Presumably, the strange reaction to the foal was because of nature's rejection of the abnormal or the weak. At first the creature could only crawl around, but has now become healthy and active. He is still very small and his legs are very thin up to the knee joints, becoming much thicker above the knee. His back is still in a curve and his hindquarters are set very low.

"The foal's hooves are very odd, as the photos show. Now he has become much stronger and able to move about without his mum for support, he can also canter at top speed. This canter is most peculiar, very similar to the action of a deer or a fawn. Nothing like the way a pony moves! His tail is carried to one side; the dock (tail-joint) being bent. On the day of his birth, the foal had an absolute mass of thick black curly mane. Foals are usually born with only a few short hairs along the top of their necks, looking somewhat like a toothbrush. I have never seen a foal with such a mass of mane, even when several months old. His mane has continued to grow in length and thickness.

"The Shony was named by the Yorkshire TV film crew when he and his mum appeared on their news programme, Calendar. They made the name from 'Sh' for a sheep or a Shetland, and 'ony' for a pony; their idea being that the foal was half sheep because of its sheepy looks and its sheep-like noises. The name stuck and he is now registered in the Shetland Pony Stud Book as 'Jacob Shony of Battenburg'. He has been examined by five vets and, as I have been assured he is in no pain or suffering, I have not put him to sleep. The Shony is very quick-witted and most intelligent. I feel I can safely say he is the most quick-witted foal I have ever known, handled or owned.

"I have had many letters from people all over the country wanting to know about the Shony. Many people have suggested that his father might be other than a pony. The popular idea is that he is a cross between pony and sheep, or deer! The vet on Yorkshire TV said in his opinion the foal was a mutation, and that he had never seen such a strange creature, and that Shony's survival was most remarkable. 'Look North' of Newcastle BBC TV also came to see the Shony and they recorded some of his very strange sounds. Everyone who sees him is absolutely fascinated by him, especially when he decides to make his noises. When the blacksmith came to trim his hooves, Shony lay down on his side like a dog. The blacksmith had to crouch down on the ground and hold one hoof up at a time. The Shony was perfectly happy to lie in this way to have his hooves trimmed. He appeared to accept it as the normal thing to happen.

"As he gets older, he certainly becomes even more odd. As mentioned, he has not grown very much in size or weight since his birth, certainly not making the normal growth rate for a foal. He carries and holds

his head at a very odd angle for a pony. His appearance around the head and neck is becoming much stranger than when the photos were taken. The mouth and nostrils have remained the same size as at birth.

"Another strange fact about the Shony is that he now has two 'mums'. Mares are very funny about foals other than their own coming up to them. As all the other broodmares were so nasty with Glide and the Shony, I did not dare to risk them out again for fear of further attacks. I own a 16-year-old barren Shetland mare called Harviestoun Sari and turned her out with Glide and the Shony. Sari took to Shony immediately and looks after him now as well as his own mum. Sari does everything possible for him, apart from feeding him milk of course. She becomes most upset if the Shony moves out of her sight, and calls to him just as his mum does. He spends a lot of time standing close to Sari as though she were his mum, and she shares her food with him; so he now has two mums. The three make a strange but charming picture.

"Shony is now weaned and no longer takes milk from his mother, so they have not been parted; besides, both mums and Shony get very upset if they are parted. (Glide is believed to be in foal for 1976). The three live together in a large loose box, and go out in the paddock for daytime exercise. Shony's most favoured food is 'Gillmans Glucose Lick' a large bucket filled with a solid mass of glucose and vitamins. He spends ages licking it; he also eats up all of his hay each day.

"I would never part with him as I would be most afraid that he would fall into the wrong hands. He is a most intelligent little animal, and will always have a good home at my stud. If anything has fought for life he has and I love him dearly and could never part with him."

We asked if Miss Maw had contacted any geneticists for their opinion, but she replied that she had only begun thinking about it. We assured her that we'd be interested in the results of any such testing, and indeed in the Shony's development generally. Glide, it seems, according to another write-up in the Farmers Guardian, 17 Oct 1975, had had three previous foals of show quality, being a show quality pony herself; so we will be interested too in Glide's latest foaling.

Well, it is gratifying to hear the Shony will have security and love in his life. Without such love, curiosity can be callous and cruel. May he live long, and happily, Miss Maw; and to you our thanks for sharing your information with us.

POST SCRIPT.

Fort, of course, had a word to say on the subject of the supposed inability of different species to interbreed, which we append here for the edification of those who think the notion of the Shony's father being a ram or a deer is utterly preposterous:

"I could quote many authorities against the occurrence of bizarre hybrids, leaving hard to explain, in terms of terrestrial origin, strange creatures that have appeared upon this earth. There are no biologists who will not admit fertility between creatures so much alike as hares and rabbits. Nevertheless, I think that there have been strange hybrids.

"A cow that gave birth to two lambs and a calf.

"I don't know how that will strike all minds, but to the mind of a standardized biologist I'd not be much more preposterous, if I should tell of an elephant that had produced two bicycles and a baby elephant.

"Toronto Globe, May 25, 1889 - The reporter went to the farm of Mr John H Carter, at South Simcoe, and wrote that he had seen two lambs, which were larger and coarser than ordinary, less romantically derived lambs... Other newspapers published statements by well-known stockbreeders who had examined the lambs, and were compelled to accept the story of their origin." --

-- Charles Fort - Lo!, ch9; The Books, p611.

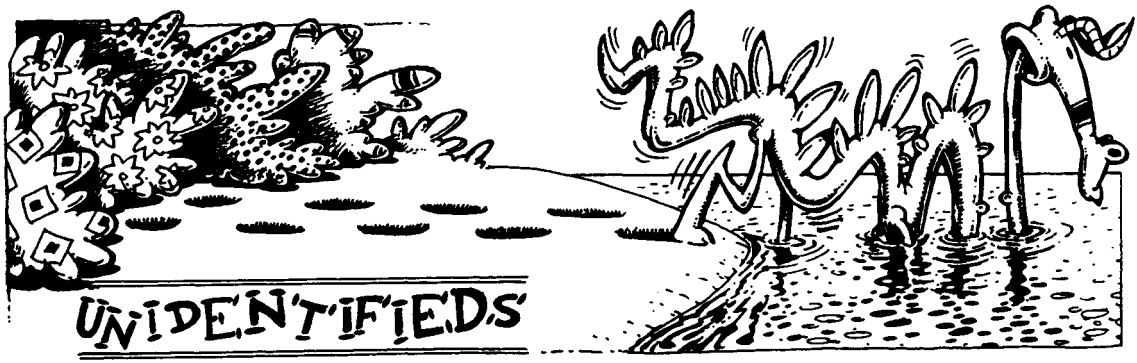
STRANGE HORSES.

This might be as good a place as any for a few historical notes we have lying around, and vaguely relevant to the Shony, though we have many more contemporary notes on animal curiosities which will have to wait.

The Oracle, a long defunct London magazine, in its November 1789 issue tells that: "There is at present a fine horse in the menage of the Earl of Pembroke, at Wilton House, which when worked, sweats exceedingly on one side, whilst on the other he is perfectly dry and cool; and this extraordinary operation of nature is so exact, that it describes a palpably regular line from the top of the nose up the middle of the face, between the ears and along the back to the tail."

The Times, 16 Sept 1836, reported a horse in Brussels, that was carnivorous. A few days before, it had burst from its stall and devoured two breasts of mutton hanging in a butcher's shop.

Under the heading 'Singular Taste of an Ass', a tale is told of a 50-year-old ass, called Billy, owned by a farmer at Great Lever, near Bolton, Lancs, who had a fondness for tobacco and snuff. As the Monthly Review vol 22, p156, tells it: "When he had finished the tobacco, a pinch of strong rapee was administered, which Billy snuffed without the least demur, and curling up his olfactory organ delivered one of those charming solos so peculiar to his species."



When Louis XIV got bored with lamb and beef, he is said to have cried out: "Oh, God! send me a new animal." If he was around this last year he would've probably regretted his outburst, because since last Spring strange things have been popping up all over. Since June 75, Nessie hogged the limelight, but in tiny paragraphs and provincial papers there has been a monstrous cavalcade of such proportions that even that 19th C naturalist-gourmet Frank Buckland would have stopped in his tracks. He boasted, disgustingly, that he'd try anything - and once even invited a friend to share with him the heart of the above mentioned monarch, plundered from the royal tomb during the French Revolution. What irony! Anyway -- let's join the procession...

ON LAND ..

JAKARTA, INDONESIA.

Draw ye near, and prepare to boggle. An animal was caught in the jungle near Kalimantan, that a local news agency has labelled a 'Tigelboat'. It was said to have the claws of a rooster, the legs of a goat, a tiger's body and an elephant-like trunk -- Rand Daily Mail ? Nov 75. Cr: CJ Holtzhausen.

GORO, NORTHERN ITALY.

Our Italian correspondent, Edoardo Russo, sent us two notices from La Stampa on the 'Goro Monster', a lizard-like creature, described as "a large snake with legs, 3 metres long and as big as a dog," seen several times in mid-June last year in the Po delta, near Ferrara. Following a close-range sighting by a Goro farmer, Maurizio Trombini, the Carabinieri, and the Ente Protezione Animali (a Soc. for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) were both involved in searches to allay the fears of people in the area. A few years earlier, there were similar sightings in the same area, which led to speculation of a crocodile (or something like one) having escaped from a zoo or circus and living wild. Whatever it was, it left clear prints and tracks « but apparantly these have proved no help in identification of the beast - Ed » We will quote the main item from La Stampa, 28 June 75, by their reporter Francesco Santini:

"Like every sultry Italian summer, this too has its viscid, black, cylindrical and howling venusian monster. Two days ago, it was walking in a tomato-field, almost on the Ferrara-Rovigo border, and the man who saw it panicked, dropping his hoe to raise the alarm. Among the 5000 inhabitants of the Ferrarese town, divided from Venetia by an arm of the Po, they call it the 'Goro Monster' and remember ancient and unusual stories of terrible "Austrian (sic), suspicious, insidious, animals". To see the track, a little faded in the sand of the sunny fields, you leave the Romea Road between Mestre and Ravenna, just past the Pomposa Abbey, and through the Mesola woods. Here, near a well-preserved 17th century tower, is Scola Farm, assigned to Maurizio Trombini by the Ente Delta Reclamation in the 60s. Trombini is a vigorous and careful man; marked by 40 years as a fisherman on the Po and the Adriatic Sea.

"Perhaps the Goro Monster, like a snake, "but with so many, many little legs, and an ugly and mean dangling tongue" won't become a home monster ((?)), but in this town Maurizio Trombini has a reputation for seriousness... and the first person who took his account seriously was Sergeant Starchielli, at the local police station, who immediately reported to Ferrara. In the little Goro barracks, the officer keeps a copy of the telegram in a scrupulous yellow folder. The animal is described as: "Black colour; 3 metres in length; 20 centimetres in diameter, and howling like a wolf. On-the-spot investigation by army troopers revealed a track left by the above-mentioned reptile, 20 centimetres large ((?)) and well-visible." Among Maurizio Trombini's tomatoes, next to the canal by the Mesola Woods the tracks are still visible.

"He has only one worry: nobody can classify his monster. The Mesola Woods forester suggested a crocodile had escaped from a zoo or circus and has been able to acclimatize among the scores of canals crossing each other

in the Goro country. Trombini doesn't like the crocodile hypothesis. "I'd have identified it if it was," he says convincingly. "Besides, don't crocodiles live in the heat. Here in winter and the fog it's freezing cold. It's a gigantic lizard. I couldn't have been mistaken." The Goro lads have invented a new sport. In the morning they dive into the Po arm touching the town; in the afternoon they make for the Mesola Woods on their mopeds on safari. They find no monster-tracks, of course, but now and then there is a report that someone has sighted the animal. Sr Trombini sighs with relief: "I'd prefer not to be alone in this story," but he investigates and finds the the news is groundless.

"It grows dark and the old ones in the Goro taverns around the harbour recall adventures of monsters, sea-horses, luminous and flying fish. Someone is telling an ancient time-honoured tale of a terrible animal, crossing the border by night. It came from Venetia, which they still call 'Austria' here. "We were at war, and the Austrians sent wild howling beasts." Trombini listens to them hopefully, then sets out for the harbour. "When you're at sea you listen to a lot of tales. When I'm old, I too will be able to report how my monster was very long and black, with its tongue hanging out." A rustic monster which a lot of people hope to see."

Edoardo Russo adds that the reporting is distinctly sarcastic; and that no further developments have been heard of.

Interestingly, we have an old note on file from Reveille, 19 Dec 1970; that a "15 foot reptile, like a dinosaur" attacked a man named Antonio Samorani, in July 1969. The scene of the attack was Forli, near Ravenna, and about 50 miles SSE of Ferrara. (cont. in footnote on p.5.)

BERRI, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Reader FE Cater sent us a note that is worth recording, taken from Michael Hervey's UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere (Robert Hale 1975) p157:

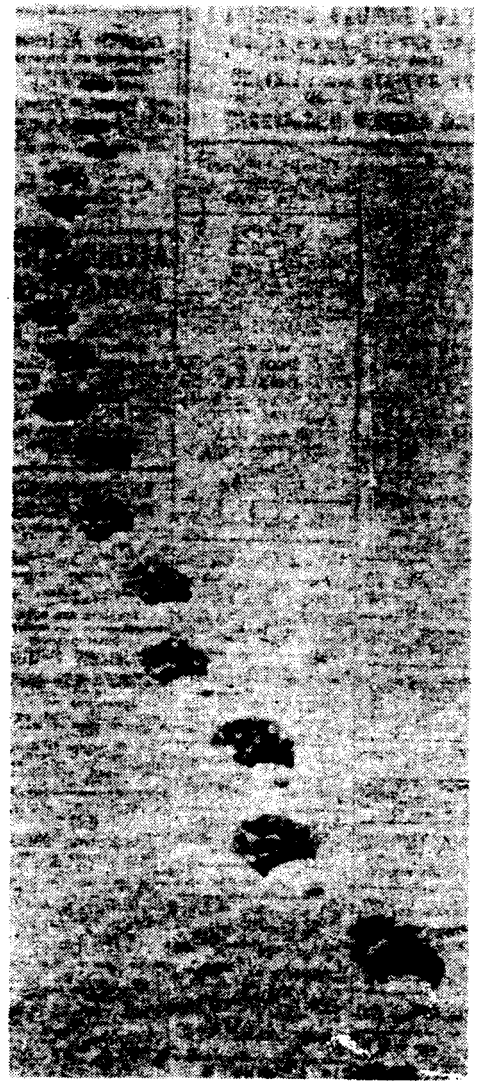
"Residents in Berri, near Adelaide, were frightened on January 2, 1953, by a ghastly looking animal described as over 6 feet long, with a peculiar head and eyes, and a long scaly body. It hissed at them from the top of a tree. Someone went to fetch a gun, but the animal,'which looked as if it had come from another world' according to one of the witnesses, leapt out of sight and vanished before a shot could be taken at it."

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

We have quite a few clippings on the "automobile-sized" Big Bird sighted in Southern Texas, throughout January this year. According to reports,it has a 15-ft wingspan, stands 4ft tall, and has a bald head with a bat-like face. We'll present the reports in more detail in our forthcoming 'Bird' issue. Sounds like Keel's Garuda is coming home to roost!

ANDES, CHILE.

News has just arrived of mystery footprints, photographed by English mountaineer Steven Read. He was on the South Patagonia Ice-cap Expedition, climbing in the Paine region of the Andes on the Chilean border. He says, in the (London) Evening Standard, 15 March 1976: "We climbed seven new peaks, and it was right on the summit of one, near a rock ridge, that we saw the tracks in the snow. They started from the rocks and stretched about 200-300 yards across the snow before vanishing again over a rock ridge."



"It was an even track of some two-footed animal, evenly spaced and certainly not human. There were no other climbers within 20 or 30 miles of us. There is no explanation of what the animal could be. The only large animal there is the puma, which is four-footed and would not go as high as that. The ridge, although not very high as mountains go, was about 6000 ft, and had been quite a climb up the south face. The tracks were about 6 inches long by 4 or 5 inches wide and had no toe marks. We did not think they were a large bird as there were no wing marks in the snow."((!!!)) Cr: Paul Devereux. It is not explained who or what this expedition was, but it would seem from this statement that they had no zoologist along. Despite Read's insistance to the contrary, the Evening Standard headlined the story as 'Yeti'. From Read's photo the tracks appear to your editor to be cat-like, but then the nearest I've been to this sort of sight is the snow in our garden.

While we're on the subject of ABSMs, permit me a sarcastic sigh as I report that Major John Blashford-Snell, "the nation's leading explorer" and known in the Mess as Blashers, has solved the riddle of the Abominable Snowman. Most national papers here for 12 Jan 1976, reported in the silliest manner possible, that Blashers, returning from a trip to Nepal, spotted footprints in mud near the village of Meghauli, 100 miles from Everest. Villagers explained that they were those of a holyman with congenitally deformed feet who ran off into the jungle. The story ought to be good for free drinks for a while.

ORINOCO, VENEZUELA.

In the Andes story above, Read asked around among the locals back at their camp, but could get no hint about the origin of his tracks; a similar questioning of locals was not only enlightning to another British climber, David Nott, but gave his discovery extra mystery. Nott and another Englishman, Steven Platt, and two Venezuelans, Wilmer Perez and Carlet Reves, investigated "what geologists say is the oldest cave in the world, 400ft from the top of a 4500ft rock tower on the El Autana mountain, deep in the Orinoco jungle of Venezuela. The cave pierces the mountain, like an eye in a rock needle, and to the Piaroa Indians it is the home of a centuries-old giant, in vaguely human form, who descends on stormy nights to devour people from their tribe. The intrepid climbers had to negotiate four rivers and 15 miles of jungle to reach the mountain; it took 3 days to climb and they spent 3 days in the caves.

In the Toronto Sun (Ontario) 1 March 1976, Nott said: "Inside, it is as big as a cathedral with a perfectly sculpted dome. Tunnels and galleries run from the main chambers with smoothly vaulted roofs and level floors, in rock coloured white to rose-red. It is breath-taking, but we don't understand it." They did not find any monster or bones, but did see some charred wood, like an old campfire. He told reporters that he discovered four more openings, and that as soon as he had collected new equipment and worked out a plan, he was heading back there to look into them. (Cr:MX). Not perhaps an Unidentified Monster story but interesting nevertheless. We'll keep our ears open for developments.

BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON.

On 23 October 1975, police sergeant Ken Cooper investigated a report in Bellingham that a plastic storm door had been ripped from its hinges at a home. He switched on his patrol-car spotlight and saw a 7½ft tall hairy creature standing in the bushes. "It appeared to have no neck. Just a head on shoulders, very big and muscular, with very short black-ish hair. The face had a leathery wrinkled look, like a woman's black purse. It had steam coming off the body as if it had been wet and running." He aimed his shotgun at it, then thought that discretion was the better part of valour and retreated. Later he found several sets of large tracks and thinks there are three of the things in the area. Daily Mail, 15 Nov 1975. Cr: Steev Moore.

IN LAKES & RIVERS ..

MUSKRAT LAKE, ONTARIO.

There have been several "recent" sightings (unfortunately undated) of the legendary denizen of this 10-mile lake, about 75 miles west of Ottawa. In 1941, a man reported seeing "an object as large as the average horse" while he was fishing. In 1968, Don Humphries, paddling his canoe on a clear Spring night, saw the monster "out of the water, scratching in the cat-tails with its snout, apparently eating them." But he had startled it, and it slid back into the water "without a splash." Other sightings describe an "alligator head" and "grasshopper-like legs" and a body about 20ft long. It is old too, for Indians described a similar creature to the explorer Champlain at least 350 years ago. Saskatoon Star Phoenix (Saskatchewan) 4 Feb 1976. Cr: MX.

SOMEWHERE UP THE AMAZON.

This is a curious little story, and told by a Swiss businessman who met, whilst on holiday in the region, a 75-year-old guide, called Sebastian Bastos. Bastos told the unnamed Swiss that he had lived among the Indians in remote parts of the rain-forest for 13 years, could speak many of their languages, and had seen sights no white man had ever clapped eyes on before. The Indians, he said, know that many prehistoric animals still live in the deep waterholes in the jungle, occasionally emerging at night. He himself recalled a trip up the Amazon some years earlier to a

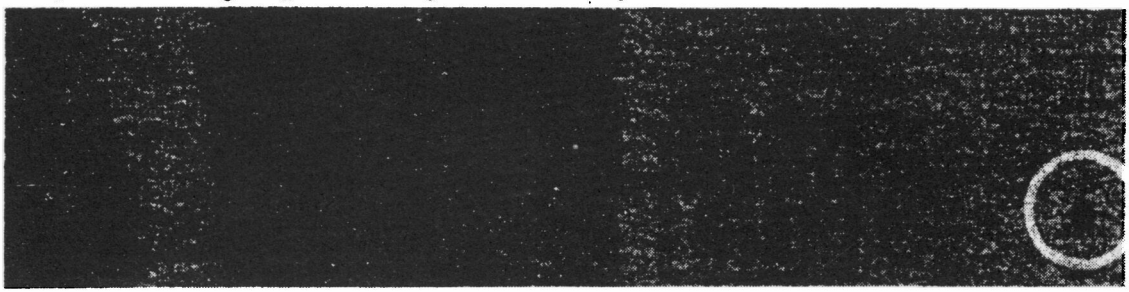
pre-arranged rendezvous with an Indian on a beach in the heart of the rain-forest. That year the water level was exceptionally low. He had just beached his boat and walked up to his friend when he heard a tremendous noise behind him. Turning round he saw an enormous "prehistoric animal" rising from the water, gripping his canoe and smashing it. The attack was in broad daylight, and both men ran for cover and watched the animal dive into the water. The Indians, he said, told of other such beasts, about 18ft long, and the few Indians who approached them were killed. The Swiss gentleman says that he had no reason to believe Bastos lied, and that he had been frightened as he recalled the incident. This curious story ends there - there is no pitch for a monster-hunt, or any other sign that anyone is trying to make any money out of it. Wherefore art thou, Professor Challenger? Liverpool Daily Post, 3 Jan 76. Cr: P Ledger.

LOCH NESS, INVERNESS.

We have decided to shelve our plans for a Nessie-chronology of the Rines-Scott affair. Salvos are still being sporadically fired in the letter-columns of the national dailies and thanks to the efforts of many readers, particularly Ken Rogers, we have these on file here. However, they don't add much one way or the other to the situation, and since space is limited we thought it was more important to devote it to more urgent news.

There was a sighting of Nessie just before the storm broke, last year. On 18 July, Alan Wilkins, of Annan, Dumfriesshire, and his family, spent 14 hours at the loch, during which he saw the monster, or at least "something strange", four times. His statement to the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, reads: "At 0720, a long dark line appeared in mid-loch off the western point. It sank slowly, only to reappear soon afterwards. It sank and rose two or three times. On the final appearance, I took two still photos. I guessed the object must have been at least 20ft long, but perhaps not more than 2ft high. I looked through the binoculars in time to see a large black shape. After a further appearance as a long line, it was suddenly gone. At 1015, a long dark line appeared in the water (in the same area). I passed the binoculars to Margery. By the time I had refocused the binoculars, the object had become three well-spaced triangular humps." A man nearby also looking through binoculars confirmed there were three humps. Mr Wilkins later describe two more incidents in which humps "emerged majestically from the water."

The film was sent to the LNIB and developed in two separate laboratories, and David James MP called them "far and away the best over a period of 34 years." Poor light and range has spoiled all but a few of the photos and these will be examined by experts, and even sent to NASA for computer-enhancement. The Sunday Express, 5 Oct 75, (Cr: BR Bates) from whom we take our details, also printed the photo we show here.



IN THE SEA ..

BARMOUTH, GWYNEDD.

While the centre-stage was being hogged by the Nessie debate (see last issue), the beast that has been haunting Cardigan Bay has come and gone a few times - but not it seems entirely unnoticed. Our correspondent in the area, Colin Palmer, has been following the phenomenon and keeping us informed. Since the original sightings made by his six girl pupils on 2 March 1975 (see reports in NEWS 10/18f), there has been a trickle of further information. (By 'original', I mean, of course, the key sighting that brought the matter to our attention. The Barmouth Monster sightings go back farther than that, as the next datum testifies). Following an appearance on a Granada TV news programme, Mrs R Griffith, of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, wrote to Colin (dated 9th July 75):

"I thought it would be of some interest for you to know that a relative and myself have also seen very large foot tracks along the beach at Llanaber. We were walking along the beach between the end of the promenade and the footbridge, about 3 to 4 years ago, when we came across these very big footprints not very far from the water. They were about 12" to 18" in diameter. We both felt rather apprehensive on seeing them, but quickly came to a decision that there was no animal with feet

as big as those, and that someone must have been fooling about with something - though they did look very real. I really do regret now that we did not study them closer, or maybe it was just as well we did not follow those tracks! I really am convinced now that those girls did see a very large creature."

Sometime in November or December (we shamefacedly admit to not having the date) the Cambrian News reported that more footprints had been discovered on beaches further up the coast. Colin received a letter from a Mr Holmes,of Dolgellau, dated 16 Dec, who saw the prints at Penmaenpool toll-bridge:

"The Cambrian News gave a version of what happened, and the footprints were a little larger than a good-sized dinner plate and you got the impression they were webbed. They were very deep in the soft sand, and when whatever it was went back in the water, its feet slithered along. Since (I saw them 7 days ago) the tide has been in several times a day, and you can still see the impressions."

That would fix Mr Holmes's sighting as 10th Dec. The CN is published on Fridays, so perhaps the item appeared in its issue for 12 Dec 75?

Colin himself writes: "Since your last coverage of the Cardigan Bay 'monster', I have been given two fully authenticated accounts, one of clear footprints in wet sand, and the other at sea of the creature at close quarters. Neither of these accounts has been passed on to anyone else, because the news of 'Nessie' hit the headlines and I thought - well, people will have to believe it now, because if Peter Scott said so, then it must be true, therefore no further need for my small attempts at convincing the community. The first sighting is that of Mr Holmes (above). Colin relates the second:

"A fishing boat making its way to Pwllheli was off Bardsey Sound in calm water when its skipper saw a most strange creature break surface only yards from the boat. He called to his crew and both men had a clear view of a large fat body mostly in the water, but with a long extended neck and a large head. The creature viewed the boat and then submerged with a speed that was difficult to believe. Within an hour the creature had surfaced three more times, again close to the boat - and once, narrowly avoided being rammed. This was no quick flash-and-away observation - these fishermen are very experienced in these waters, and being professionals, not given to exaggeration. When they saw my drawing ((NEWS 10/19)) there was instant recognition. To me, this was all the confirmation I needed of the existance of a creature that had been innocently described to me by the five schoolgirls last Easter. The Pwllheli fishermen have not, and I doubt if they ever would, put pen to paper - they are content in the telling of it."

KILWA, TANZANIA.

About mid-May last year, the Tanzanian Press reported that a fisherman in this southern part of the country had landed in his nets a fish-like creature the like of which had never been seen before. Reports reaching Dar-es-Salaam said the man, Mohamed Sefu, found the strange fish had arms and legs. "It had two legs with ten toes on each. The arms protruded from its chest, where there was also one eye. On its right-side there was another eye which glowed brightly at night. It also had a small horn, like that of a cow, one ear and a hump. A large toothless mouth and a beard under its chin completed the description." No measurements were given but it was said the creature remained alive for some time after it was caught. Biologists were said to be puzzled and unable to classify it - and Tanzanain officials promised to preserve it in the national museum. (South African) Rand Daily Mail, 23 May 75. Cr: CJ Holtzhausen. We notified our contact in the Fish section of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), to find they didn't know of this prodigy. However one of their men would be in that part of the world shortly and would make inquiries. We'll keep you informed of any developments.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO.

We discovered something equally monstrous that we have somehow missed in earlier issues. Fisherfolk in the Gulf of Mexico were convinced the strange creature, caught off Vera Cruz in April 1973,was "a marine monster from another world." It had one enormous sinister eye, and a giant mouth with triple rows of razor-sharp teeth. Local 'experts' had preserved the thing in alcohol for identification, but this is the last we ever heard of it. Sunday People, 15 April 1973. Further 'Bug-eyes-of-the-Deeps' can be found in the pages of the INFO Journal, particularly No8, p20ff.

THE DURGAN DRAGON.

Even as we started work on this issue,we were sent news of a series of 'sea serpent' sightings that has caused much excitement down in Devon, who are calling it the 'Durgan Dragon'. Tony 'Doc' Shiels, the Wizard of the West, was kind enough to write to us with some background info. In a recent letter he says: "I suppose I should mention that there were a few odd sightings of UFOs, around Falmouth, late last year. The most spectacular, a group of 3, being seen by Mr R Good, of Budock, near Falmouth. I don't know if this should be tied in with the monster sightings or not (though it has become fashionable of late to make connections between dragons and discs). The monster was first seen, I believe, by a fisherman, around Christmastime. I'm told that at least two of the mackerel fishermen who have seen the monster, now refuse to put to sea, until it's been captured, killed or driven away from

...cont on p16.

We were scheduled to feature Robert Forrest's reply to FW Holiday's riposte to Robert Forrest's article on 'Leys, UFOs & Chance, but we ran out of room. We apologise to him, and will definitely have it in the next issue. Meanwhile...another hypothesis from Stuart Greenwood:

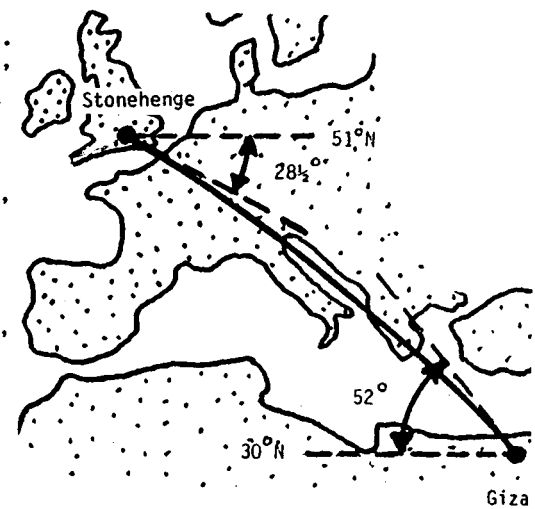
Stuart W Greenwood

The Giza ~ Stonehenge Connection

In pursuit of a guess that alignment B through Stonehenge in Watkins' book (1) might point to Giza in Egypt, I stretched a thread on a globe between Stonehenge and Giza and found that it did indeed do so within the limits of accuracy of my measurements (2). The thread still graces my globe, and in an idle moment recently I checked the angle made by the thread with the parallel of latitude through Giza. As far as I could determine, the angle as measured with a simple protractor was 52 degrees.

Now that gives one pause, as it happens to correspond with the typical angle of slope of the pyramids at Giza; just as the measurement of 29 degrees for the corresponding angle in the Stonehenge region corresponds fairly closely with the 30 degree slope of Silbury Hill near Avebury (3).

I was fortunate in securing the cooperation of Captain William W Bull of the Department of Aerospace Studies here in Maryland, in a check on the quoted figures using a Global Navigational & Planning Chart. (His results are appended). It appears that, in addition to the links between Stonehenge and Giza (and Giza and Silbury Hill) already suggested in (2) and (3), there may be a further relationship indicated by the relative positions of the sites on their respective parallels of latitude. Of course, we may just be looking at a series of coincidences. And then again, perhaps not!



Great Circle Route between Giza and Stonehenge

References:

1) A Watkins, The Old Straight Track, Garnstone Press, 1970. (Also Ballantine Books, 1973).

2) Stuart W Greenwood, "Pyramid Slope and Northern Latitudes", THE NEWS, 9/12.

3) Stuart W Greenwood, "On the Slope of Silbury Hill", THE NEWS, 13/6.

Stuart W Greenwood, December 1975.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
DETACHMENT 330, AFROTC (AU)
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20742

6 November 1975

At the request of Mr. Stuart Greenwood, Department of Aerospace Engineering, University of Maryland, I have measured certain geographic relationships which he believes exist between Stonehenge and Avebury, England, and Giza, Egypt. The coordinates are:

Stonehenge	51 10'N	001 50'W
Avebury	51 25'N	001 52'W
Giza	29 59'N	031 09'E

These coordinates were laid out on a Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC). The GNC 4N Chart, eighth edition, was used. This chart is constructed to a scale of 1:5,000,000. The chart is constructed mathematically using a Lambert Conformal Conic Projection. This method employs a secant cone intersecting the spheroid at two parallels of latitude called the standard parallels; in this case, they are 37 00'N and 65 00'N. These points are normally located at the one-sixth and five-sixth points of the projection. This particular chart covers Europe, part of North Africa, and part of the Middle East.

On any Lambert Conformal Chart, a great circle route is approximated by a straight line. The actual form of the great circle is concave toward the mid-parallel. But the distortion between the straight line and great circle is negligible.

Straight lines were constructed between Stonehenge, Avebury, and Giza. Where these lines intersected the parallels of latitude, measurements were made using a standard Air Force navigational plotter. We find that the measured angle at Avebury is 29° and at Stonehenge is $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. When we measure the angles at Giza, we obtain angles of $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and 52°. Since Giza lies beyond the 37 parallel, it lies in the realm of greatest distortion; therefore, these readings are subject to a potential error of up to $1\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$. Since the Stonehenge and Avebury areas are within the standard parallels, their potential error is less than $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

WILLIAM W. BULL, Captain, USAF
Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies

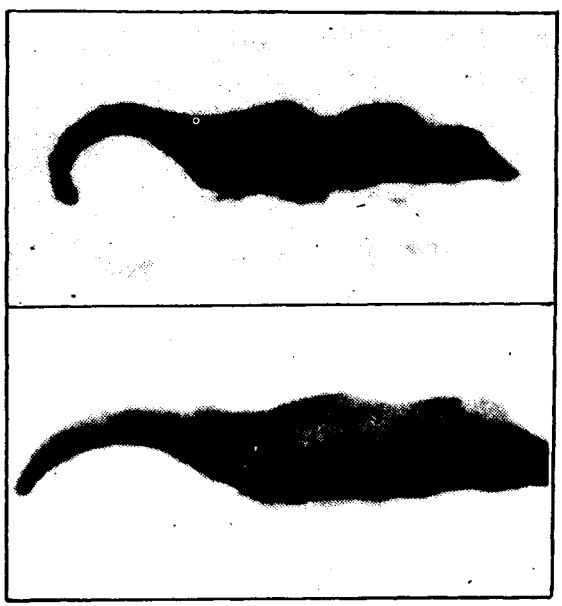
WWB:eef

Durgan Dragon, cont...

these parts. I've also heard that the monster has been blamed for a run of bad luck and odd accidents (not to mention unusually bad weater) suffered by some fishermen lately."

The first of our collection of notes from the Falmouth Packet records a carcase and bones found washed up on Durgan Beach earlier this year. The skeleton was described as about 10ft long, and a 13-year-old naturalist, Toby Benham, told the paper he was fairly sure it was a whale. It's skull, showing "blow-holes" now graces his collection of bones. It seems too small to be a whale to us, but doubtless it is one of the many dolphins and porpoises washed ashore all year round ((A handy ref. on the subject is A Guide for the Identification & Reporting of Stranded Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises on British Coasts -- British Museum (Natural History) publication No: 549; by FC Fraser.))

The Packet for 5 March 76 printed two photographs of the monster, looking remarkably like Nessie on a good day, sent in by 'Mary F' of Falmouth. We reproduce them here with the kind permission of the Packet, with Mary F's account of the incident, dated 29th February:



Mary F took her photos very early in February, saying the animal was only visible for a few seconds and that the light was shining into the camera. "I'd say it was 15 to 18ft long (I mean the part showing above the water) It looked like an elephant waving its trunk, but the trunk was a long neck with a small head on the end, like a snake's head. It had humps on the back which moved in a funny way. The colour was black or very dark brown, and the skin seemed to be like a sealion's. I'm glad to know other people have seen the great Cornish sea serpent. As a matter of fact the animal frightened me. I would not like to see it any closer. I do not like the way it moved when swimming."

The photos brought forward several more sightings, in letters printed in the Packet for 12 March. Mr S Bennett of Seworgan wrote: "I have myself, during the last Christmas holidays, witnessed the sighting of a similar creature, although until now I have remained reticent about it. It was off the shore at Durgan, Helford, about 4pm, near dusk. When I first spotted it, I thought it was a dead whale, but as I drew nearer, it started to move away smoothly and I could see it was not a whale, nor like any other creature seen around here. I judged that the part of it I could see above water was about 12ft in length with an elongated neck, similar to the one in your photographs...I would like to add that some of your readers may remember the old Dolphin - a pub, alas, no more. Over the fireplace, there hung a replica sea-serpent which, as the story goes, was frequently seen in Falmouth bay in the days of sail."

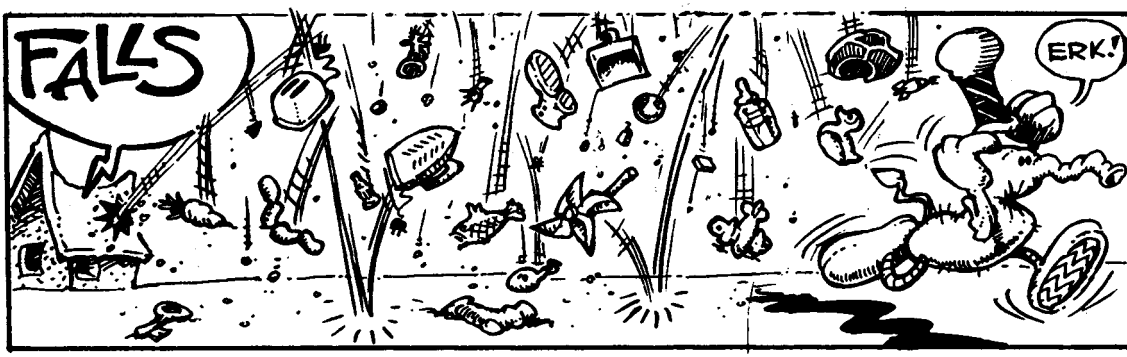
Mr Dunvan Viner, of Truro, wrote: "I now have the courage to admit, however disquieting it may be, to having seen a creature not unlike that in the photographs, a few hundred yards off Rosemullion Head. My first impression was that I had seen a whale, as only a dark hump was visible. But as I watched, it started to rise in the water, and a long neck, similar to that described by Mary F, appeared. It seemed to look around and then sank back under the surface. It is difficult to say how large the creature was because of the distance, but it must have been about 30 or 40ft in length, the major part of it being the neck."

The Packet for 19 March said that Tony Shaw, a writer and member of the Folklore Society, remembered hearing of similar reports about five years ago, and that there had also been monster sightings off the Irish coast "recently" -- we'll be looking into both of these further, since we have nothing on our files. There was also a letter from Amelia Johnson, now living in London, who recently stayed with her sister near Falmouth. "One afternoon we decided to take a walk..in the direction of Rosemullion...Looking out to sea, I saw a strange form suddenly emerge from the water in Falmouth Bay. It was just like the sort of description one hears of the Loch Ness monster; a sort of prehistoric dinosaur thing, with a neck the length of a lamppost. I raced back to my sister and told her what I'd seen. She told me she thought I must be "batty" and when we went back to see if we could see it again, it was no longer there." Miss Johnson goes on to say that she allowed her sister to convince her she must have imagined it - which she accepted - until her

sister sent her the clipping from the Packet with Mary F's photos. "The only point on which I disagree with Mary F is in the colouring. I should say it was more of a dark grey; but then, like her, I didn't stay around too long."

'Doc' Shiels, a writer and entertainer, announced several weeks ago his intentions to organise a hunt for the Dragon, and if he fails here, he'll switch to the Irish coast. His plan is to raise the monster by making psychic contact with it. Some of the plans are in operation and we'll bring you news of any developments. 'Doc' also told us that he was contacted by someone else who claimed to be able to call the beast psychically -- she is an attractive young witch called 'Psyche' who plans to swin in the bay, naked, sometime in April -- so we'll be keeping an eye on this too (yes indeed!)

Even as we work on the layouts for this issue, more cuttings arrive from Doc Shiels. He has a letter in the Packet for 26 March, announcing his plans to make psychic contact with the thing...and the front page of the same paper says that a Prof Mike McCormick was sailing from New York to join the hunt. (A prof. of what we don't know, but if it's any help, he does a fire-eating act and has a collection of 'specimens' (("a young basilisk" etc)) from his world-wide 'monster-hunts.) Doc tells us that the Prof, Tony Shaw (above) and himself will probably cooperate closely in a combined hunt.



IT'S RAINING SHITSICLES!

That, believe it or not, headlined an item in Esquire for Jan 76 (Cr: John Carlson.) Mr & Mrs James McBride of Denver, Colorado, had a 60lb ice mass came through their kitchen ceiling. They thought it was a bomb and called the police, who later said the stuff was "frozen human waste leaked from the sanitary system of a jet flying overhead." However that may be, some stuff, described as the contents of an airliner's toilet, came down from the sky at Bason Bridge, near Bridgewater, Somerset, much to the disgust of Mr Leslie Skuse, who said: "It was all over the washing, and my cabbages. I can laugh at it, but it's not very nice." A spokesman for Lulsgate Airport (the nearest) doubted it was an aircraft: "They have chemical toilets which are sealed." Interestingly, there is no mention of the goop being frozen. Perhaps someone up there is trying to tell us something -- or we send them spacecraft, so they send back their rubbish too! Daily Mirror, 22 March 76. Cr: Anne Williams, S Moore.

THE SILVER CASE FROM NOWHERE.

Sometime in December last year, Mrs Lynn Connolly was hanging out her washing when she felt a sudden sharp tap on the top of her head. A neighbour heard her cry, and when they both searched the grass, they found a small silver notecase, about 1½" by 2½", hinged, and containing a half used notepad. It was marked with the initials 'TB'(or 'JB') and the word 'Klaipeda', which was the name of an old Lithuanian seaport, now behind the Iron Curtain. Mrs Connolly heard no plane overhead ((if it dropped from a plane it'd have given her more than a tap!)) . No one claimed it at the police station,so it was given back to Mrs Connolly - and there the mystery of the case that fell out of the sky and into the garden at The Quadrant, Hull, remains. It seems like it fell only a short distance onto Mrs Connolly's head -- but from where...? Sunday Express, 21 Dec 75. Cr: Steve Moore, Richard Cotton.

BANGERS IN THE SKY.

In a letter to the Sunday Express, 12 Oct 75, Mrs JP Adams, of Belmont Crescent, Swindon, Wilts, says she looked out of her sitting-room window to watch the storm which was fiercely thrashing the trees together outside. Then she noticed, high up in one tree, a string of four uncooked sausages. It was not windy enough for them to be blown there -- did a bird drop them, she wondered? We, as you know by now, incline toward the view that they were dropped by a celestial butcher's boy who once worked for the Worcester Fishmonger. Can you suggest anything better?

Journals cont from p27.

wheedling info out of institutions. INFO: Box 367, Arlington , VA 22210, USA. 1yr: £5.00 /$10.00. See our colophon for special joint rate for both NEWS & INFO Journal. All UK subscribers who haven't yet received INFO 15 (they got lost in the mail) should receive replacements with No16. We don't know until you tell us - so please write if after a reasonable while nothing turns up.

The Christian Parapsychologist -- a small new quarterly journal which explores a specifically Christian interpretation of paranormal phenomena. Much of its contents are highly pertinent and of interest to Forteans, and some of it deals with Forteana. For a sample, send stamps to cover postage to: Leslie Price, Ed., CP: 1 Devonshire Gardens, London W4 3TW.

Kexue Tongbao, No10 1975 -- valuable reference article on ancient Chinese records of astronomical events.

New Scientist -- 5 Feb: "Courage, Fearlessness & Fear" by Dr J Rachman; Jon Darius on new approaches to testing Relativity theory -- 12 Feb: "When do Earthquakes Occur?" by Dr J Brander; "New Nessie Sonar Tracks are Fake" on the laughable attempt by Videomaster to drum up publicity during the Brighton Toyfair; David Bohm commemorating "Heisenberg's Contribution to Physics" (he died on 1 Feb) -- 26 Feb: more on the row about whether Astrology has any 'scientific value'; "Ball Lightning Photographed" (but still unexplained) -- 4 Mar: "Rise & Fall of an X-ray Star" by Ken Pounds (it peaked during the meteorological chaos last August (see NEWS 12/7) -- 11 March '75 Months of New Particles' Dr R Walgate reviews the latest lepton and Hadron discoveries -- 25 March: 'When did we first migrate to the New World?'; 'Components of the Solid State' a review of the basic ideas of solid state physics by Sir Nevill Mott -- 1 April: Eric S Binns on mites that hitchhike on flies direct to a safe food supply; 'Deus est Machina?' You've got to read this to believe it! George Sassoon and Rodney Dale have worked out from three cabbalistic texts (13th & 16th century) a giant machine for making single-cell protein. The machine, called 'Ancient of Days' looks like a cross between an alcholics vision of a super-still and the classic mad scientist's giant brain, and brought to Earth on the spaceships 3000 years ago. In New Scientist? The papers the next day claimed it was a hoax, but Reading Evening Post, for Fool's Day, quoted Rodney Dale as denying the hoax. Just a good bit of free speculation on old texts, he said. Move over, Ezekiel! The manna-machine cometh!

Thanks to: D Baxter, S Moore, Wilfried Pardon, Ken Rogers, Roger Sandell, Phil Ledger.

NOTES ON GREENWICH PHENOMENA

Part2 of a Taoist interpretation of Fortean phenomenology by Steve Moore.

In the previous issue of the NEWS, I presented a collection of data which I intend to tentatively interpret in Taoist terms. However, before reaching this stage (in the next issue) it is necessary to look at some basic theoretical considerations. I apologise to those readers for whom I am going over old ground...but on the other hand it seems to me that one of Fort's basic notions (and to me one of his most important), that of the Continuous Universe, has been sadly neglected. Perhaps a restatement would not be out of place after all.

The variety of Fortean phenomena being almost infinite, a composite approach

using various modes of thinking may well promise greater success than a single system. The scientific explanation of a comet, for instance, takes no account of the psychic response of the percipient who sees it as a portent...and if all things are continuous, who is to say which of the two is most important?

As a beginning, then, I intend to compare Fort's Continuous Universe with some classical Chinese concepts, before moving on to interpret the phenomena in terms of the latter. Hopefully, by comparing these two differing points of view (and, perhaps, others may be tempted to continue the process with other philosophies), some new insights, if only symbolic, may emerge...

FORT'S CONTINUOUS UNIVERSE

The western scientific mode of thought has very great uses, whether we consider it covers a wide enough field or not (some of the attacks currently against science disturb me, especially those against archaeology, as they betray exactly the same narrow-mindedness as they profess to attack...). But it does also have its limitations. Primary amongst these is its methodology...the practise of studying a single event in isolation, picking it out from its surroundings and largely disregarding the latter. Fort argued against this with considerable ferocity, pointing out that all things are related to one another: that the universe is continuous.

Basic to Fort's notion is that 'everything merges away into everything else': that it is impossible to look at an event in isolation without taking into account all its surrounding circumstances. Taken to its logical extreme, this means that it is impossible to examine one object without examining the entire universe. From this, it is a simple step to posit a connection, no matter how tenuous, between everything in the universe ...although in practical terms it is not necessary to carry this connection too far. But knowing where to draw the line, and which threads of connection to include in the examination, is the heart of the problem. The simple answer of science is to draw the line very close, and to rigidly regulate the lines of connection. By so doing, there is a possibility that entire lines of connection remain unknown...connections which, because they cannot be regulated and, possibly more important, used, are neglected or, more probably, ridiculed. It is those very outlawed lines of connection that should interest us.

Using this notion of continuity, Fort went on to develop his concept of the Organic Universe. His example that most readily springs to mind is that of the period in 19th century England when, after several insectless months, vast swarms of the critters appeared, seemingly from nowhere. Insects were needed: they suddenly appeared although, as it turned out, in vast excess. From this and other examples, Fort evolved an idea that would verge on the religious, were it not for the fact that he saw it as an automatic process. He saw the universe in terms of a vast organism, with some form of proto-consciousness, able to compensate its own deficiencies (and yet still capable of error). It is interesting to note that when a similar hypothesis, that of 'Gaia', was put forward by two scientists (1) it met with indifference or hostility from the scientific establishment. Fort, however, having got this far, went no further. I am groping toward, if not an explanation of the mechanics of the process, at least a framework within which the process could occur.

Jung, with his concept of synchronicity, also acknowledged the possibility of lines of connection ignored by science, going beyond usual connection of cause-and-effect to examine simultaneous links between the psychic and material world (2). He adduced considerable evidence, both from his own experience and from a statistical analysis of certain aspects of astrology, to demonstrate the existence of this connecting principle, which simply is to do with the 'meaningful coincidence'...a strong psychic state finds some reflection in a happening in the material world, although the connection may be tenuous, or even 'mistaken'. This is an interesting parallel with the case of the insects mentioned by Fort. Here, though, we seem to have 'communal synchronicity': the psychic state (disturbance at the unnatural lack of insects) would be felt by large segments of the population, which may relate in some way to the massiveness of the response.

If all things are continuous, then man's physical being and his thought are connected. This may seem simplistically obvious, but according to this reasoning, there is a connection between the objective and the subjective, the world of matter and of thought, and, come to that, of the unconscious as well. By extension, we can also conceive of a 'mass-psyche', the sum-total of the psyches of the continuous human race, operating as a single unit. If many Fortean phenomena are synchronistic, this may explain why the

phenomena seem to have no correlation with the psyche of the single percipient ...they are rather reflections of the state of the mass-psyche.

We might then be moving toward a structure in which some Fortean events could be fitted (although it should be remembered that the concept of synchronicity only posits that there is such a thing as an acausal connection; it does not explain how such things happen). But this only takes us as far as events concerning physical objects, such as insects. With phenomena such as UFOs, the very nature of which is uncertain, the problem becomes more difficult. Jung himself (3) drew back from explaining them as materialised psychisms. To the Chinese, as we shall see, such a concept presented no problems...

THE CHINESE UNIVERSE

Firstly, it is not my intention to examine the entire system of Chinese philosophy. Over 3000 years or more, a conglomerate has formed: various schools of thought, with widely divergent origins, have become fused together, sometimes none too comfortably, and later ages have incorporated or rejected earlier ideas into their own systems. I intend, therefore, to stick to basics as much as possible, except where some other development might cast light on the subject.

First then, let us see how the intuitive all-encompassing Chinese point of view contrasts with, and compliments, western rationalism...

Western science is, I believe, a product of urbanisation. The trend of western man to live together in small areas is connected with his approach to life. The tendency is inwards, toward the centre, and, as a result, the mode of thought also turns inward, to examine one thing at a time, to make it the centre of attention and cut off its broader connections.

The Chinese, however, have always been, and continue to be, an agricultural nation, and although they have large cities, Chairman Mao's 'resettlement campaigns' are but another example of the tendency to look outwards, away from the centre. The tendency is to look at the universe as a whole, and the relations between things, rather than just the things themselves.

Having established this polarity of attitudes in opposite halves of the world, we are led toward the Chinese theory of dualistic monism, a union of opposing principles that make up one universe. The traditional Taoist/yin-yang theory goes like this:

The basis, and the most difficult to define because of its abstractness, is the Tao. Beyond form or name (Tao is merely a convenience name), it is the underlying principle of the universe, containing both existence and non-existence. Before the universe was formed, there was the Tao, and it is diffused throughout the universe. It is that which gives things their form, their very essence, and yet it is incapable of apprehension by rational means. 'When looked for, it is not there'...and yet it is there, in all things. It is only knowable by intuitive means. It is the mother of all things.

The Tao 'gave birth' to the One, the universe in its unity, and the One gave birth to the Two, the polar opposites. And yet there is no idea of progression here, nor, really, of the 'past tense'. It is the way things are. These polar opposites are called the yin and the yang. We are still talking in terms of universal principles here, rather than opposites such as strong and weak: everything can be defined in terms of yin and yang. From the yin and yang and their interaction, all things are 'given birth to'. The total interaction of the yin and yang, their workings throughout the universe, is known as the T'ai Chi, the 'Supreme Ultimate'. It is usually demonstrated diagramatically as in Fig.1

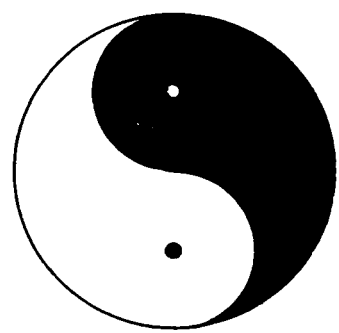


Fig. 1.

The two principles, yin:dark, yang:light, interact to form the great circle. And yet it is also important to note that the yin contains, within itself, the 'seed' of the yang, and vice versa. The major attributes of the yin and yang are as follows:

"Yang, the positive principle, is assoc-

iated with all that is bright, benificent, active and masculine: symbolised by Heaven and the Sun. Yin, the negative principle, with darkness, passivity, the feminine in nature: symbolised by the Earth and water.

"The Yang is said to transform, the Yin to unite. By these processes they brought into being the five essences (elements), water,fire, wood, metal, and earth.

"The interaction of Yang and Yin, in due season and right proportion, produce, and continue forever the normal phenomena of nature; sunshine and rain, growth and decay, life and death. Man, especially his mental part, is built up of the finer portions of the five essences, but mind and matter have a common origin, in the operations of the First Principle through the Yang and the Yin." (4).

The Tao, though, is not merely a passive underlying principle. One of its meanings is a 'path' or 'way'. So it is also the active principle, and at the same time the method or pathway followed by activity. If all this seems confusing, I can only crave indulgence, but in attempting to describe the Absolute all labels are inadequate.

The T'ai Chi can be taken as synonymous with the One. It is also inseparable from the yin and the yang, for they together make up the T'ai Chi, and the T'ai Chi is no more than the yin and yang. Guiding and underlying the T'ai Chi is the Tao, and yet the Tao, being in all things, is also part of the T'ai Chi.

How does all this fit in with the Continuous Universe? Many Fortean phenomena seem to fall into a border area between material and psychic states; as the yin and yang are posited to be the principles which constitute the universe in all its varying states, their operation in this particular area may be especially applicable. In terms of yin and yang, interaction between the material and non-material is therefore quite feasible. The materialised psychisms that Jung drew back from are acceptable when both matter and psyche are seen as differing forms of the same principle.

The Continuous Universe can be seen as analogous with the T'ai Chi. That organising principle which Fort added to make the Organic Universe, I see as analogous to the Tao. The framework within which the organising principle works, I shall attempt, in the final part of this article, to interpret in terms of yin and yang. If the Organic Universe seeks balance, I hope to show that it does so by uniting the two great opposing principles harmoniously. Applying a Chinese (Yin) viewpoint to phenomena that have previously been studied by a Western (Yang) method, I hope to obtain a similar balanced view.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONNOTATIONS.

Returning a little closer to the everyday, the world as we know it, in geographical terms, is also interpretable in terms of yin and yang. Heaven (seen more as the sky than the theological Heaven, for the yin-yang concept works adequately without any religious connotations) is Yang, while the Earth is Yin. Although these are seen as opposites, the yin and yang, in all their manifestations, should be looked on as complimentary opposites, rather than working against one another.

The geographical features of the landscape can also be seen in yin-yang terms. Valleys and low-lying areas are yin, hills and plateaux are yang. The higher, sheerer, more 'pointed' a hill is, the more yang it is: similarly, a deep, sheer gorge has great yin.

Just as others are attempting to find some connection between ley-lines and Fortean phenomena, so I will attempt to find similar connections with a yin-yang interpretation of nature. Indeed, many speculations will rely heavily on these geographical connotations, which is unfortunate, as collections of Fortean data tend rather to concentrate on the events than their surroundings. If the speculations contained in the final part of this article are seen to have any value at all, in order to correlate them, we are going to have to compile considerably greater geographical detail about each event. Whatever system of interpretation is chosen, leys, yin-yang or other, this geographical data is bound to be of immense importance. Events must be looked at in context, rather than isolation.

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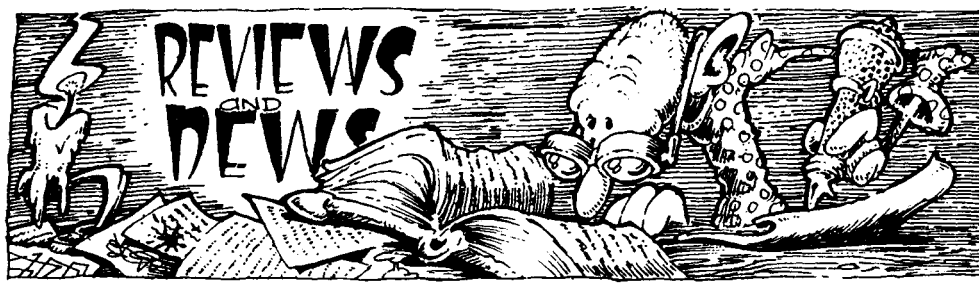
Steve Moore. MARCH 1976.



News

Keith Rawlings, a C-of-E lay-reader and teacher at Winton Boy's School, Bournemouth, Hants, came under concerted attack by local church leaders who were "horrified" about his discussions with pupils. What has the vicars in a twist is that Mr Rawlings uses von Daniken's Chariots of the Gods as a basis for discussion. Mr Rawlings protested that they'd got things out of proportion: "In another lesson I use another book The Gospel According to Science-fiction which shows that some of von Daniken's facts are wrong." Exit apoplectic clergy. London Evening News, 18 Dec 75. Cr: Steev Moore.

Early next year, ATV will screen a late night horror/SF series called Beasts, written by Nigel Kneale, the man who brought you Quatermass, 'The Stone Tape', and 'The year of the Sex Olympics' and other great plays.

Tomsk University, Siberia,will mount a "cosmo-chemical" survey this summer on the site of the Tungus 'meteorite', according to Novosti Bulletin 36762. Also mentioned herein that I've not seen elsewhere, is the info that: "the natural rate of change in the heredity of plants in this region (is) speeded up about 12 times."

The Church of Scientology's patent on the E-meter (BP 943012) will expire on 27 July, and there has been no attempt by L Ron Hubbard to renew it. N.Sci, 12 Feb 76.

Peruvian Ground Drawings: the exhibition of photos and Maria Reiche's work on the lines at Nazca, mounted by the Arts Council, has the following schedule:
ICA Gallery,London: 9 April - 2 May.
Hereford, Museum: 8 May - 30 May.
Folkstone, Arts Centre: 5 June - 27 June.
This exhibition is well worth seeing; and I believe catalogues with many high quality reproductions of the exhibits, will be on sale during the showing times, and at the ICA Gallery, or from the Arts Council (who will also be producing a smaller illustrated leaflet), costing about £4.

The computing gallery is now open in the Science Museum, London. For some time though there was a terminal (linked to the Imperial College computer) on display, and kids would delight in typing up "rude words" and seeing them displayed on the video screen. A list of forbidden words was programmed in to veto the electronic grafitti...until, recently, some spotty young genius, to the joy of his mates and horror of passers by, conjured out of the computerised depths a complete visual display of the forbidden vocabulary.

Further to our story on the mysterious shooting of Tom Coxon (NEWS 13/18),the Daily Mirror 21 Feb 76, reported that the two brothers were jailed for 4 yrs after admitting to wounding Coxon, at Leicester Crown Court. Far from ending the mystery, it is not explained how there could be 3 pieces of metal in the victim's head, if the shot was fired as the two cars passed. There is no doubt the brothers were that day driving around firing their gun at targets — could it be that some gigantic coincidence caused them to pass Coxon as he became mysteriously wounded?

After the hilarious failure of Comet Kohoutek, the media seems to have gone to the opposite extreme over Comet West, which by all accounts, has been more spectacular than predicted, (5 times brighter, N.Sci 4 March). It can be seen by naked eye in the eastern sky, in the region of the constellation Delphinus. A note from our Asian correspondent Ion Will says that its three tails are clearly visible from Hongkong, where it has been a dramatic portent for the beginning of the Year of the Dragon.

Hardbacks

The Tao of Physics by Fritjof Capra. (Wildwood House; £6.95; pp352; index, bib, notes, illos; ISBN 0.7045.0142.2.)
Number and Time by Marie-Louise von Franz. (Rider; £3.75; pp332; index, bib, notes, illos; ISBN 0.09.121020.8.) -- The nature of physics has changed considerably since Fort attacked its myopic exclusionism in the 1920s.

For one thing, Neils Bohr and Werner Heisenberg did not formulate their (still widely held) model of quantum mechanics until the late 1920s; in turn followed by Heisenberg's own principle of 'Uncertainty' in particle interactions. Then, for the first time in several centuries, physicists began issuing public statements that were virtually indistinguishable from those of the mystics. Some profound change had entered the temple of high materialism. Since then, Einstein has consolidated this new position by giving dramatic expression to another ancient mystical concept - relativity and the effects of the observer on the very events he wishes to observe.

Capra became interested in mysticism, partly because of the obvious role it played in the thought of some of his heroes (Heisenberg, Oppenheimer, et al), and partly as a result of some mystical experiences of the unity of nature himself. (In one vision he saw the underlying ceasless motion of the sub-atomic world as the 'Dance of Shiva'.) In his own quest for an understanding, he discovered that his own chosen path (theoretical physics), in the meaning of another of his mentors, Castaneda, "had a heart". It may come as a surprise to the reader to see dissertations on basic physics side-by-side with eastern mysticism, but the real surprise is that they dovetail together so beautifully, and to Capra's great delight, illuminate each others dark corners so well.

The main body of this book explores the nearly identical conclusions that can be drawn from what these two polar disciplines tell us about the nature of phenomena: the difficulties of expressing and communicating knowledge when you have to "put it into words"; the duality of phenomena (light as a wave and a particle is a classic example); the reflexive nature of phenomena which automatically adjusts to the observer (including his moral notions); the realisation that change, not permanence, is the true constant; and that beyond the 'appearances' (phenomena) lies the formless boundless ground of being in which all things have their origin, called Tao, Brahman or Dharmakaya (for convenience) likened by the Taoists to the 'Uncarved Block' wherein lies an infinite potential of form. In this book, Fort's vision is validated and his implications confirmed. If there could be such a thing as a spontaneous arizing of Zen from the scientific materialism of the West, then Fort would be a neat expression of it (see Steve Moore's article, this issue).

Capra has a natural facility (reminiscent of the late Alan Watts) to express the ineffable, and his summaries of Hinduism, Buddhism, Tao and Zen are among the best I've seen; the elements of modern particle physics come across similarly, with ease and understanding. In this respect The Tao of Physics prepares the way for Number and Time, essentially an extension of Jung's thesis of 'Synchronicity' by his student and colleague, Dr von Franz, who adds to the mystical/physical unified world model the important dimension of the human psyche. In calling this latter book one of the most important in my life, I am still aware that I have not yet plumbed its depths, for I believe it signposts the way to a radical new understanding of how 'mind' connects and interacts with 'matter' on the most fundamental level. Please allow me to digress...

We Forteans come together because we are interested in non-ordinary phenomena, which we accept as part of a continuous spectrum of the manifesting universe. We cannot say we know what 'Reality' is, so we cannot say that Fortean events are exceptions or special cases. For most people, 'Reality' is that which is agreed by general consensus; a semantic construction designed to filter the vast unpredictable Unknown into a secure, predictable, ordered, controllable and altogether more sociable world. This consensus is inculcated into us all at birth; growing up for most of us is an aquiescence to its dominance; and it remains with us, conditioning our responses, perceptions, behaviour and expectations. Freeing ourselves of its power is not so much dependant on our strength of character, individuality or will (the 'mind-over-matter' school are in error here) as it is a function of bypassing this semantic universe to establish direct communion with the Unknown, of which it is an imperfect and artificial image.

The semantic universe, the world that is known and labelled, is not the only possible one - a fact most of us are aware of, but usually seen as a function of madness or mysticism (ie "not-Real" to most of us) - and the process which brought about this consensus is of paramount interest to us, because since it determines the nature of our 'Reality', it could (given other constituents) produce other 'Realities'. Heisenberg echoes a similar phrasing of Jung, when he wrote: "What we observe is not nature itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning." Our answers are determined by our questions and the true "nature itself" (the Tao, etc) can never be expressed or experienced within the semantic universe. But because of the reflexive nature of the Unknown, all our interactions with it are 'mirrored'. Just as our questions invoke a semantic-response, the 'reflected question' invokes archetypal imagery in our pre-conscious minds.

Of all the archetypes, Dr von Franz argues, the concepts of numbers are the most fundamental and universal: they seem to be innate throughout the natural world, and in man, are less susceptible to mythological variations. Even in inorganic nature, number is the basis of form, structure, rhythm, symmetry and sequential growth. Dr von Franz explores the parallels between the pre-conscious "numerical

field" and the Tao or Unknown or 'ground of Being' that underlies the physical universe. These parallels have been dealt with by others in many different ways, but rarely so deeply or importantly as here. Although this book discusses only the first four numbers, it is enough of a peg on which to hang the theoretical context, and is rich in illustrations, both graphic and textural. Number and Time (ie numerical progression or series) constitute the main connection between 'mind' and 'matter' since both are thereby ordered in similar ways. A mandala, for example, can serve at once as a representation of divinity or divine order (the 'New Jerusalem'), the physical universe (the cardinal points) and the self, by the harmonic interplays (the 'numerical field') of the four, the two and the one. It is impossible here to give an idea of the full scope of the discussion which draws its examples from the complete range of human experience and knowledge. The number archtypes are rarely directly expressed, but enter into the mythological archetypes and order them. Dr von Franz writes: "Since, generally speaking, contents of the collective unconscious which have not yet reached the threshold of consciousness tend to engender parapsychological syndromes, especially when they are constellated contents (in an 'excited state' as the physicists would say) these contents appear in conjunction with the pre-conscious aspects of the number archetype." Some excellent examples of this can be found in Clark and Coleman's The Unidentified, in which they discuss the 3 plus 1 symbolism of the UFO contactee syndrome (see also Jung's Flying Saucers.) On these foundations too, she maintains, rests the concept and process of divination by numerical combinations - and, since it unifies the internal and external worlds with numerical (and temporal) portents applicable to both, it can be found structuring phenomena, synchronistically.

This is a difficult book, not because of any fault of Dr von Franz (to the contrary her narrative is concise and gripping) but because the thesis is so strange to our habitual views that one is even a little afraid, for truly you are in the presence of awesome and far-reaching powers and their implications. The full effect of this book will not be felt immediately, I think, but it will be a source of inspiration to thinkers in the decades ahead, as they grapple with the problems of the nature of phenomena and 'Reality'.

The Eighth Tower by John A Keel. (Saturday Review Press/EP Dutton; $8.95; pp218; ISBN 0.8415.0403.2.)
The Invisible College by Jacques Vallée. (EP Dutton; $8.95; pp216; index, bib; ISBN 0.525.13470.0.)

Two new works here by respected authors in the field, at almost the same time, about much the same subject (UFOs and related phenomena as a control system), but written with differing approaches, and reaching slightly different conclusions.

Keel's book is divided into three parts. In the first, he proposes his theory of the "super-spectrum", a range of energy fields operating on a higher series of frequencies than the electromagnetic spectrum, and which we are unable to perceive. Thus UFOs, for example, which according to him are basically masses of energy, manifest themselves by 'sliding down the frequency scale'. In the second part, he attempts to relate monsters, Men in Black and similar oddities to the super-spectrum, and in the third presents some speculations about just what is using the phenomena as a control system for human behaviour.

Keel's style is journalistic and highly colourful: speculations and odd ideas abound as he swashbuckles along...amusing, thought-provoking, but, perhaps, dangerous...the reader is invited to walk a tight-rope, and there's always the peril of falling, either into believing blindly everything he says, or rejecting the book in its entirety. Accepting that most of Keel's other work is written in the same style, I still find myself wishing, personally, for a slightly more inhibited approach.

As far as the mechanics of paranormal phenomena go, Keel sticks fairly solidly by his super-spectrum. I find myself stumbling over his assertion that science will soon discover more about it, when at its introduction its only a theory, but perhaps that's a minor quibble. As to what is using the super-spectrum to control human behaviour, he seems unable to make up his mind, offering various ideas, all of which seem highly speculative. But he does seem convinced that the human race are just puppets, puppet-master unknown...with the implication that he, she or it, is decidedly unfriendly.

Vallée's approach is more cautious. He too reaches the conclusion that UFOs constitute some kind of control system, but he draws back from the question of what has set up the system and why... which is perhaps the safest thing to do.

He covers a wider field than Keel, and in a more restrained fashion. He spends perhaps too long complaining of human bungling and government cover-ups, but then concentrates mainly on contact cases in many forms: religious manifestations, UMMO, Geller and SPECTRA, and, of course, more 'normal' man/UFO contacts, attempting to demonstrate an underlying connection between them all. His conclu-

sion is that UFOs and the contact syndrome are causing a change in mankind's mythological structure, causing us to learn a new kind of 'cosmic behaviour'. The questions begged are, of course, 'why?' and 'to what?'...and while it's admirable of Vallée not to attempt answers when he doesn't know, by so doing he leaves the book rather like a body without a head.

The book's title refers to 'an international network of UFO scientists', and one could get the impression that he thinks UFO studies should be the private domain of enlightened scientists--all others keep out. I hope that isn't the case...for we certainly don't need that.

It's good to see the psychological aspects of the UFO problem continuing to get coverage, though both authors tend to make these subservient to the physical aspects, unlike Clark and Coleman's recent work along Jungian lines. Despite their disclaimers, both Vallée and Keel seem to be suffering from residual traces of the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis: for both of them, UFOs are from 'out there', somehow alien to mankind and his world. Whether that is so, or whether they are phenomena not as yet understood, dependant on man and his psyche, is naturally a highly controversial question. I can't, in all honesty, say that either author has convinced me of their point of view...but at least they have given us something to argue about.

Steve Moore.

Mazes & Labyrinths of the World by Janet Bord. (Latimer; £7.50; pp181; index,bib; ISBN: 901539.35.X.) If you can get beyond the price barrier this is a useful visual reference indeed. The main body of the book is an exciting compendium of photos and illustrations, and after a brief introduction to the use of the labyrinth symbol, you are plunged into its graphic and three-dimensional applications from all cultures and times. Janet does admit the collection is not exhaustive (apart from a brief reference and 2 illustrations there is little from China, and the Islamic culture with its fine sense of pattern geometry is omitted entirely) however, what is here is a feast without calling for more.

Here are mazes from India, Africa, America and Australia, and of course Europe; carved spirals on the stones of an Irish passage grave; tile-patterns on cathedral floors; mazes cut into turf, or marked out by hedges, walls, trenches or stones; in literature and architecture and art; maze games and dances; mazes in allegory, and mazes as symbols of spiritual pathways (mandalas etc); labyrinth patterns as decoration (some excellent designs using words or knots) and displays of graphic virtuosity like the Celtic patterns of complex interweaving; and so on.

I found the material on the (known) English turf mazes most interesting, for as Janet writes (TLH 69) "A turf maze is soon lost in an English summer of rain and fast growth, and needs frequent and careful maintenance." It is at once astonishing and gratifying to realise that they have survived as long as they have (certainly pre-Christian). Doubtless many have been lost, but hopefully books like this one will open more eyes to the ancient treasures of our landscape, making that survival a little less precarious.

Strange Life: vol B1 ($7.95; pp287.)
Strange Phenomena: vol G2 ($7.95; pp264).
Both compiled and published by William R Corliss: Sourcebook Project, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057, USA. Two more volumes in the impressive, valuable, indispensible and highly recommended Sourcebook series. S.Life begins a new series on biological and organic curiosities. Contents include: myths & legends of extinct animals; evidence of life in meteorites?; lifeforms that resemble artifacts; intelligence, fascination and unusual behaviour in animals; data that challenges Darwinian evolution theory; freaks and mutants; unusual capabilities (strength, speed, etc); unrecognised species; artificial creation of life?; effects of magnetism; etc. S.Phenomena supplements vol G1 with data on mirages & other transmission phenomena; falls of webs, chemicals, fish, insects, gelatin, leaves & thunderstones; auroras, ball-lightning & light wheels; volcanic, meteoric, magnetic & quake anomalies; strange noises; strange clouds & rains, winds & waterspouts, dark days & deluges; etc.

Paperbacks

Did Spacemen Colonise the Earth? by Robin Collyns. (Mayflower; 75p; pp256;bib,photos.)
Hidden Worlds: Fresh Clues to the Past by MHJTh van de Veer & P Moerman. (Corgi; 60p; pp206; index.)
In Search of Ancient Gods by E von Daniken. (Corgi; 75p; pp218; bib, photos.) 75p is about all I'm prepared to pay for vonD's effort - in fact hardbacks are dear enough these days, without finding that you've just bought a bucket of tripe - I must be one of many who decided to wait for the paperback. Collyns, for reasons best known to himself, seems to be a disciple of vonD in both subject approach and style, asking leading questions and half answering them with conjecture. What can you say about an author who confronts you with a forest of exclamation marks, & clumps of threatening question marks? What can you say about headings like:"Is this the fossil-

ised brain of a Spaceman who landed in Russia in the Carboniferous Period?", "Did Elijah call down Atomic fire on Mt Carmel?", "Was the Cabbage artificially developed?" (I kid you not!). What else is there to say about an author who still insists a "Giant Spaceship abducted a British Regiment in 1915!" except that he seems to be pretty good at artificially developing his own cabbages. The two Dutchmen, alas despite the bold promises on the jacket, merely pose the same old questions. Their answers are somewhat different to vonD's in that they try to find terrestrial solutions to the classic enigmas of the past. Hidden Worlds makes no significant contribution to the subject, but at least there are no ET plots to foist cabbages on the yokels in our end of the galactic arm.

Secret of the Ages by B le Poer Trench. (Panther; 60p; pp206; index, refs, photos.)
Passport to Magonia by Jacques Vallée. (Tandem, 45p; pp169.)
Extraterrestrial Intervention by Jacques Bergier & the Editors of INFO Journal. (Signet; $1.25; pp143; photos.) — Vallée's book is now generally recognised as one of the classics of UFOlogy, tracing the phenomenon back to medieval accounts of demons and fairies. At 45p,it is superb value; doubly so, in view of the higher-priced rubbish available. BLPT's book is a classic of another sort, and should stand as an example to anyone who takes as gospel the writings of Ray Palmer. The Secret here is that UFOs come from inside a hollow earth. The book is full of slightly cranky ideas that can be interesting if you don't take them too seriously; also contains the notorious satellite pictures of an alleged hole at the North Pole (via Palmer's Flying Saucers) and similar sized holes can be found in poor BLPT's arguments. The Bergier book would win a prize if they gave one for a title that had nothing to do with the contents. But don't let that put you off: here are a collection of some of the best articles from the early issues of INFO Journal, and destined, when they pass into general circulation, to become classic references on a host of Fortean subjects. Most articles have refs appended.

In Search of Lake Monsters by Peter Costello (Panther; £1.25; pp400; index,bib,photos.) Another classic reference now in paperback and again super value considering its important contribution to the serious study of 'Unidentified Animals' and allied phenomena. Though he concentrates mainly on Lake Monsters, it is the best book since Heuvelmans's In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents, which it compliments with new material from Canada, USA, Australia, Asia and other key sighting areas (many hardly known), patiently collected and verified as far as possible, intelligently discussed and clearly written up. In addition to the comprehensive bibliography on the subject, there are useful analyses of UK sighting evidence. Highly & rightly acclaimed & recommended.

Destiny Mars by MW Saunders. (Downs Books, Caterham, Surrey; £1; pp64; index, refs.) Not a crank book, but an intelligent and thought-provoking exploration of data relationships between terrestrial pyramids and the various planetary satellites, and which, if true, are of incalculable importance. Recently Downs Books were offering a grant of £300 to the first person to get a research project on the subject accepted by a university (N.Sci, 8 Jan 76).

The Devil's Triangle 2 by Richard Winer. (Corgi; 50p; pp158; index, bib, photos.)
No Earthly Explanation by John W Spencer. (Corgi; 60p; pp178; photos.) Part of the bombardment by 'Bermuda Triangle' material, which, as a BBC TV Horizon documentary showed recently, contains such distortions of factual evidence that most of us will never know for sure one way or the other. Writers have some responsibility to their public, and we are unfortunate indeed to be afflicted with many who think more of having a sensational best-seller, than of the veracity of their material. You'll have to make up your own mind about these books, written in a goshwow! style (at times Spencer verges on the hysterical) that does not inspire me with much confidence. Students of Atlantis and UFOs will know, of course, that they are heavily invoked herein.

Other useful paperback releases:
Sphinx & the Megaliths by John Ivimy. (Abacus; £1.20; pp192.)
Secret Life of Plants by P Tompkins & C Bird. (Penguin; 75p; pp340; index,bib.)
The Loch Ness Story by Nicholas Twitchell. (Penguin; 70p.)
The Alchemists by F Sherwood Taylor. (Paladin; £1.25; pp191; index, illos.) An excellent survey of the chemical side of alchemy, with a review of symbolic and oriental alchemy, by ex-director of the Science Museum.
Other Lives by Brad Steiger. (Award Books; $1.50.)
The Jupiter Effect by JR Gribbin & SH Plagemann. (Vintage Books; $1.95; pp178)

It is very gratifying to realise that the age of pamphleteering is not dead, and that many of today's pioneer researchers have not been daunted by the orthodox scientific press' steadfast ignorance and hostility towards the studies that challenge the very tenets of their institutions, but have taken to producing their own tracts. Two of these small presses, Zodiac House, and Fenris-Wolf, specialise in different aspects of the field becoming known as 'Earth Mysteries'. We'll list here some of their publications, but please write to them for details and to be put

on their mailing list, etc:

Zodiac House:
'Principles of Prehistoric Geography' by J Heinsch, trans. by Michael Behrend.
'Atlantean Traditions in Ancient Britain: pt1, Visions of Albion' by Anthony Roberts.
'Songs of Mu & Atlantis' poems by R Holder.
ZH: 7 Hugon Rd, Fulham, London SW6.

Fenris-Wolf:
'Runic' by Nigel Pennick (guide to Runes).
'Madagascar Divination' by Nigel Pennick.
'Dene-holes & Subterranea' by Ann Pennick.
'The Swastika' by Nigel Pennick (study of the universal use of the symbol).
'Ancient Hill Figures of England' by Nigel Pennick (being the Institute of Geomantic Research (IGR)'s Occasional Paper No2.
FW/IGR: 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8SD.

** ** As you can see, there have been quite a few new books, and we have not been able to fit all our reviews in, and have kept back the following for next issue: 'Guide to Occult Britain' (J Wilcock); 'The Sirius Mystery' (R Temple); 'The Mystery of Atlantis' (C Berlitz); 'Brigantia' (GR Phillips); and others. ** **

Journals

Gnostica: 37 — "Ghosts, Ghouls & Pendulums", Colin Wilson on the genius of Tom Lethbridge, being a first chapter preview of the sequel to The Occult.

Startling Detective, March 76 — "Manhunt for a Supernatural Suspect" by Duane Bostick; a lengthy account of the Jan 1974 'Bigfoot' scare in South Florida.

Sunday Times, 29 Feb 76 — "Was it Suicide?" by Laurence Marks & Penny Hallowes; a review of the Moorgate tube disaster (last year - & see NEWS 11/20) which still remains a mystery.

Street Life 29 Nov 75 — "People just catch Fire..." by Idris Walters; a glib and facile look at spontaneous human combustion.

Sunday People 18 Jan 76 — "The Amazing Man who leaves his Body"; an interview with Blue Harary, star turn at the Psychical Research Foundation, N Carolina.

Wildlife March 76 — Nigel Sitwell on the "Loch Ness Monster Evidence" plus Sir Peter Scott on "Why I believe in the Loch Ness Monster"; good diagrams of Rines's photo-setup, and high quality prints of the photos, in colour too.

Journal of Meteorology, Jan 76 — GT Meaden giving "A Meteorological explanation for some of the Mysterious Sightings on Loch Ness & other Lakes & Rivers"; Feb 76 — "The Great Gale of 2-3 Jan 76"; a new small journal that often contains historical information and correlations of interest to Forteans. Inquiries to, J. Met: Cockhill House, Trowbridge, BA14 9BG, England.

MUFOB, ns 2 — congratulations to ed. John Rimmer for a neat switch to a NEWS-size format. Main contents: "Experimental UFO Hoaxing" by DI Simpson; and again congratulations for having the courage to tackle the fundamental question of the reliability of UFO reporting. The results of the controlled hoax herein described show up rampant gullibility throughout the field's media, but no suggestions are made as to what can be done about it. MUFOB: 11 Beverley Rd, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4AW.

Flying Saucer Review, 21:5 — Charles Bowen on the Travis Walton abduction from Snowflake, Arizona; Peter Johns on some East Anglian UFOs; Jacques Vallée on Geller; Pierre Guerin on "The Profound Unity of all Paranormal Phenomena"; FW Holiday on a similar theme but different tack; sightings & news. FSR has a new address: FSR Publications Ltd, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

SOBEPS, the Belgian UFO association, whose quality journal has been inaccessible to those who cannot read French, have taken the laudable step of publishing an English-language abstract, with additional material, called SOBEPS News, to accompany Inforespace, and is ably edited by Alice Ashton. This venture is highly commendable and we urge you all to support it. SOBEPS: Boulevard Aristide Briande 26, 1070 Brussels, Belgium.

The Ley Hunter: 69 — letters; PS Hannah on the "Hemlockstone Line" (Notts-Leics); Anthony Roberts on the lost land of "Lyonesse"...etc. TLH: 5 Egton Drv, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT. 1yr: £1.50/$7.00.

Fate, March 76 — articles on "Windigo - The Cannibal Demon"; "UFO over Chicago"; 250 million-yr-old "Footprints of Adam" in Kentucky Rock; April 76 — lunar periodicities in crime waves; Ozark ghosts; "Spirit healing in Brazil"; and an amazing case of an apported figuring.

Kadath — a glossy and well produced Belgian journal devoted to 'lost civilisations'. (In French). The Jan/Feb 76 issue deals with the Nazca lines & Maria Reiche. Kadath: 6 Boulevard St-Michel, 1150 Brussels, Belgium.

INFO Journal: 16 — FW Holiday on "Water Monsters: The Land Sighting Paradox."; Stuart W Greenwood on an interpretation of "Quetzalcoatl"; Robert B Gair on "The Secret of the Anorthosites" (are they evidence of a near collision with the moon 1.3 million yrs ago?); plus material on ball-lightning, lunar periodicities of earthquakes & the problems of

cont on p18...

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INFO-NEWS JOINT SUB RATES.

We have recently discovered that your ham-headed editor made a mistake when he was working out the Joint sub-rate, and compounded the error with another mistake when he was typing out a list of the prices. In full, they should be as follows:

INFO Journal - 6 issues - $10.00/£5.00.
INFO & NEWS: 1yr - 12 issues - $14.00/£7.00.
INFO & NEWS: 2yr - 24 issues - $24.50/£12.25.
THE NEWS - 6 issues - $6.00/£3.00.
THE NEWS - 2yrs - 12 issues - $10.80/£5.40.

Because of time delays and the rapid fall of the pound, we have attempted to correct various advertised prices, which, by the time they appeared in print, were invalid. However for the foreseeable future both INFO and NEWS - or rather Fortean Times - will be keeping to the above prices, and an exchange rate of £1:$2.

INFO'S 4th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Fortfest 76 will be held this year in Washington, at the Hospitality House Motor Inn, in Arlington, Virginia, over August 6-8. Those interested in attending, or wishing to receive the bulletin mailing, please write to Fortfest, INFO, Box 367, Arlington, VA22210.

OTHER INFO NEWS...

INFO 16 has just been mailed from the USA. All UK subscribers who have not received INFO 15 yet...do not dispair. I've been assured that there will be another attempt to send replacements to these shores...and this thim they might not be snatched...Back issues of INFO, Nos 1 to 14 (expept Nos 1,2,4 & 8 which are OP) will henceforth be $1/50p; and from No15 on, $1.50/75p. -- INFO Journal will soon be indexed; a project underway by Larry Bryant -- The Complete Books of Charles Fort This invaluable tome, we should have explained, can be ordered from the INFO address (above): INFO members - $12.50/£6.25; non-members - $15.00/£7.50. Considering that one NY firm is charging over $30 for what amounts to hardback versions of the unindexed and badly typeset Ace paper editions, the above omnibus is superb value, (includes postage). Sterling may be paid to the NEWS address for UK convenience & orders will be forwarded.

BINDERS.

Many thanks to those of you who have paid in advance for binders. We were on the point of ordering from the manufacturer when we heard from Paul Willis, President of INFO, that they were looking into what sounded like a more attractive system and price. So we have held off until the details can be compared. We hope you can bear with the delay.

*** *** *** NEXT ISSUE *** *** ***

Our debut as Fortean Times will include your ed. on Scottish Coastal Monsters, Steev Moore concluding his interpretation of Taoist phenomenology, Robert Forrest's reply to FW Holiday on 'Leys, UFOs & Chance', and notes on Miracles and Strange Fires. *** *** ***